(d) the reasons for not seeking cooperation of private sector in increasing the availability of pulses in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Government has taken a number of measures for augmenting domestic supplies; by permitting imports at zero duty, imposing a ban on export of pulses, and importing pulses through specified public sector agencies and cooperatives.

(c) and (d) Import of pulses is under OGL and can be imported by everyone including private sector. Free importability is continuing since more than 10 years. To encourage private traders to import pulses, import duty has been reduced to zero per cent on 8th June, 2006 from the earlier rate of 10%, and the zero per cent duty regime has been extended upto 31.3.2009.

In view of the substantially large quantities of pulses proposed to be imported by the concerned public sector agencies and cooperatives, over different periods of time, from different suppliers and in different lots, losses, if any, on account of import of pulses by the concerned public sector agencies and NAFED would qualify for some limited subsidy.

Facilities for freedom fighters.

†*149. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the freedom fighters in the country, State-wise;

(b) the facilities being provided by Government to these freedom fighters;

(c) whether any proposal for enhancing these facilities is under consideration of Government; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to enhance these facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) Since the inception of the Freedom Fighters' Pension Scheme in 1972, the Central Government has sanctioned pension to approximately 1.70 lakh freedom fighters and their eligible dependents till 31st July, 2007. State-wise break-up of freedom fighters/dependents who have been sanctioned pension is given in Statement-I *{See* below).

(b) The details of facilities being provided by the Central Government to the freedom fighters are given in Statement-II *{See* below).

(c) and (d) The rates of Pension payable to freedom fighters were revised in October 2006 as indicated below:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

SI. No.	Category	Rate of monthly basic pension upto (01.10.2006) (Rs.)	Rate of monthly basic pension from (02.10.2006) (Rs.) .
1(a)	Ex-Andaman political prisoners	5,000/-	7,330/-
(b)	Freedom fighters who suffered outside British India (other than lNA)	4,500/-	6,830/-
2.	Other freedom fighters	4,000/-	6,330/-
3.	Widow/widower of above categories of freedom fighters	Entitlement same as of the respective deceased freedom fighter	Entitlement same as of the respective deceased freedom fighter

In addition, dearness relief at the enhanced rate of 58% of the basic pension is also payable on the basic amount of pension.

Keeping in view the recent revision in the rates of pension, no further proposal in this regard is presently under consideration of the Government.

Statement-I

State-wise break up of freedom fighters/dependent who have been sanctioned pension

SI. No.	State/Union Territory	Pensions sanctioned
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14,572
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0
3.	Assam	4,438
4. &5.	Bihar and Jharkhand	24,870
6.	Goa	1,427
7.	Gujarat	3,594
8.	Haryana	1,684
9.	Himachal Pradesh	617

1	2	3
10	Jammu and Kashmir	1,806
11.	Karnataka	10,083
12.	Kerala	3,206
13. & 14.	Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh	3,466
15.	Maharashtra	17,581
16.	Manipur	62
17.	Meghalaya	86
18.	Mizoram	04
19.	Nagaland	03
20.	Orissa	4,189
21.	Punjab	7,008
22.	Rajasthan	809
23.	Sikkim	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	4,097
25.	Tripura	887
26. &27	Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand	17,990
28.	West Bengal	22,479
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	03
30.	Chandigarh	89
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	83
32.	Daman and Diu	33
33.	Lakshadweep	0
34.	NCT of Delhi	2,043
35.	Pondicherry	317
	Indian National Army (INA)	22,467
	TOTAL:	169,993

Statement-II

Details of pension and other facilities being given by the Government to freedom fighters.

(i) The current rate of pension and dearness relief payable per month to various categories of freedom fighters and their eligible dependents are given below:

Sl. No.	Category of freedom fighters	Basic Pension (in Rs.)	Dearness Relief (in Rs.)	Total amount of pension (in Rs.)
i	Ex-Andaman political prisoners	7,330/-	4,251/-	11,581/-
ii	Freedom fighters who suffered outside British India (other than INA)	6,830/-	3,961/-	10,791/-
iii.	Other freedom fighters (including INA)	6,330/-	3,671/-	10,001/-
iv.	Widow/widower of above categories of freedom fighters	Entitlement same as of respective deceased freedom fighters		
v.	Unmarried and unemployed daughters (upto three)	1,500/- each	870/- each	2,370/-
vi.	Mother and father	1,000/- each	580/- each	1,580/-

(ii) Free railway pass (1st Class/AC Sleeper) for freedom fighter and widower/ widow, along with a companion, for life;

(iii) Free medical facilities in all Central Government hospitals and hospitals run by PSUs under the control of the Bureau of Public Enterprises. C.G.H.S. facilities have also been extended to freedom fighters and their dependents;

(iv) Telephone connection, subject to feasibility, without installation charges, and on payment of only half the rental;

(v) General Pool residential accommodation (within the overall 5% discretionary quota) to freedom fighters living in Delhi;

(vi) Widow/widower of the freedom fighter is also permitted to retain the accommodation for a period of six months after the death of the freedom fighter;

(vii) Accommodation in the Freedom Fighters' Home set up at New Delhi for freedom fighters who have no one to look after them.

(viii) In addition to the above facilities, ex-Andaman freedom fighters are also entitled to the following facilities:

(a) free voyage facility for freedom fighter and widow, to visit Andaman and Nicobar Islands, once a year, along with a companion; and

(b) free air travel facility for freedom fighter, to visit Andaman and Nicobar Islands, once a year, along with a companion.

(ix) All major facilities provided to freedom fighters are also extended to their widows/widowers.

Killing of army officers by juniors

*150. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of army officers, during the last two years, were killed by their juniors;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to protect the lives of army officers?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) There have been one incident each in 2005 and 2007 and three incidents in 2006 in the Army where officers have been killed by their juniors. These are isolated incidents. The major causative factors identified for such killings are:-

(a) Stress due to prolonged commitment in counter insurgency environment.

(b) Perceived lack of concern shown by superiors to the problems of individual.

(c) Prolonged separation from family and difficulty in attending to family commitments.

(d) Low tolerance levels in certain soldiers further aggravated by stress full environment.

(e) Domestic problems like personal, marital, financial etc. causing heavy stress coupled with denial of leave leading to frustration.

2. The Government has taken several steps to reduce the stress among the troops which leads to such incidents. Some of these steps are:-

(i) Better man management and prompt attendance of grievances at Unit level. Improved accessibility of leaders and frequent interaction of junior leaders with the soldiers.

(ii) Some Junior Commissioned Officers of Army Medical Corps (AMC) have been trained and deployed as psychological counsellors in Northern and Eastern Commands.

(iv) Training of more JCOs and NCOs for acting as counsellors in units.

(v) The NCOs have been educated and sensitised to be alive to the sensibility of the troops.

(vi) Visits by senior staff officers apart from formation commanders to units to assess conditions of employment and living.

(vii) The training capsules on relaxation techniques including Yoga and Pranayam have been introduced.

(viii) Leave policy has been liberalised permitting splitting of annual and casual leave. The troops will now be able to go to their home towns on leave thrice a year instead of twice a year earlier.

(ix) Rotation of units and individuals to minimize exposure to stress.

(xi) All Chief Ministers have been requested to make the civil administration more responsive to the problems of serving soldiers and their families.

(xi) It has been decided to strengthen Rajya Sainik Boards and Zilla Sainik Boards in all States to take necessary follow up action on the grievances of soldiers in their home towns/villages.

(xii) A helpline with toll free number has been established.

(xiii) Efforts are made for identification and counselling of persons who are at higher combat stress by Regimental Medical Officers, junior leaders and unit commanders.

(xiv) Grant of additional rail warrant to go home or Selected Place of Residence of family to all ranks of armed forces serving in field/counter insurgency/ counter terrorist operational areas.

(xv) Rationalisation of scheme for LTC for both officers and Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBORs) and removal of restriction of 1450 kms for availing All India LTC.

(xvi) Grant of High Altitude (Uncongenial Climate) (HAUC) allowance at enhanced rates to troops deployed in more difficult, hazardous isolated areas within the existing HAUC areas.

(xvii) Under the Married Accommodation Project, houses are being built at different Stations to improve the availability of family accommodation.

Objective of NREGA remains unfulfilled

*151. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the objective of NREGA to eradicate poverty still remains unfulfilled since operationalising in February, 2006;

(b) whether Government are aware that provision of drinking water, sheds to children of the labourers and first aid is nowhere in sight; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir. The basic objective of NREGA is to enhance the livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. NREGA as a wage employment programme has been able to generate 90.51 crore person days of employment in 200 districts in 2006-07 of which the largest share of benefits has been to the SC/ST /women beneficiaries. The works taken up under NREGA also aim at strengthening the natural resource base of rural livelihood. Thus, by augmenting wage employment opportunities and creating durable assets in rural area NREGA is able to alleviate some aspects of poverty. During the year 2006-07, a total of about 2.12 crore households demanded employment out of which 2.10 crore were provided employment. 90.51 crore person days of employment was generated out of which 22.95 crore (25.36%) were SC, 32.99 crore (36.45%) ST families and 36.79 crore (40.65%) for women. A total of 8.35 lakh works were taken up out of which 3.87 lakhs works were completed during the year 2006-07. A state-wise status report of implementation of the Act for the year 2006-07 is at Statement *(See* below).

(b) and (c) Para 27 of Schedule II of the NREG Act provides that the facilities of safe drinking water, shade for children and periods of rest, first-aid box with adequate material for emergency treatment for minor injuries and other health hazards connected with the work being performed shall be provided at the work site. Accordingly States are taking action to provide these facilities. The administrative expenditure of NREGA, out of which the worksite expenditure is met, has been enhanced from 2% to 4% to enable states to provide for worksite facilities.

Statement

State-wise status report of implementation of Act for the year 2006-07

Sl. No.	States	No. of households who have demanded employment	No. of households provided employment	Persondays In Lakhs					Works Ongoing	Works Completed	Total Works
				Total	SCs	STs	Women	Others			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Andhra Pradesh	2161494	2161395	678.77	202.41	88.31	371.93	388.05	133727	87571	221298
2	Arunachal Pradesh	16926	16926	4.53	0	4.53	1.36	0	99	397	496
3	Assam	798179	792270	572.92	49.57	265.05	181.43	258.3	5889	9518	15407
4	Bihar	1708610	1688899	596.87	281	19.13	103.72	296.74	321.22	29759	61881
5	Gujarat	226269	226269	100.48	7.07	64.57	50.44	28.84	5292	3137	8429
6	Haryana	50765	50765	24.12	14.48	0	7.38	9.64	667	985	1652
7	Himachal Pradesh	67187	63514	29.9	9.09	6.7	3.66	14.11	4004	4722	8726
8	Jammu and Kashmir	121328	121328	32.3	1.75	7.5	1.44	23.05	1236	722	1958
9	Karnataka	548532	545185	222.01	73.37	45.18	112.24	103.46	7638	11005	18643
10	Kerala	104927	99107	20.48	4.12	2.54	13.44	13.82	285	2756	3041
11	Madhya Pradesh	2866349	2866349	1971.77	312.96	959.05	852.53	699.76	86610	82548	169158

12	Maharashtra	353024	353024	159.28	25.79	65.12	59.05	68.37	5568	5324	10892
13	Manipur	18568	18568	18.57	0	18.57	9.45	0	714	901	1615
14	Meghalaya	99177	96627	24.22	0.07	20.14	47	4.01	2074	850	2924
15	Mizoram	52478	50998	7.85	0	7.85	2.62	0	47	216	263
16	Nagaland	27884	27884	13.08	0	13.08	3.92	0	4	124	128
17	Orissa	1407251	1394169	799.34	189.06	393.87	284.58	216.41	32718	18803	51521
18	Punjab	31788	31648	15.57	10.8	0	5.88	4.77	579	749	1328
19	Rajasthan	1175172	1175172	998.87	159.5	642.9	670.68	196.47	13278	8771	22049
20	Sikkim	4179	4107	2.42	0.02	2.38	0.6	0.03	55	103	158
21	Tamil Nadu	683708	683481	182.79	102.48	4.34	148.27	75.97	4506	2213	6719
22	Tripura	74800	74335	50.13	7.98	31.17	37.6	10.98	867	4115	4982
23	Uttar Pradesh	2676261	2573245	822.91	467.82	25.62	136.21	329.46	32516	42984	75500
24	West Bengal	3235360	3083757	440.08	158.78	81.88	80.46	199.42	18780	24281	43061
25	Chhattisgarh	1282794	1256737	700.21	84.08	318.98	275.29	297.15	16358	16105	32463
26	Jharkhand	1394108	1394108	520.47	122.19	209.7	205.46	188.59	39767	24048	63815
27	Uttranchal	134363	134312	40.6	10.84	0.57	12.37	29.19	2827	4426	7253
	TOTAL:	21188894	21016099	9050.56	2295.24	3298.73	3679	3456.6	448227	387133	835360

Complaints regarding ALHs

†*152. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the three Chiefs of Armed Forces have lodged their complaints to Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) regarding quality of Advanced Light Helicopters (ALHs);

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that a large number of such helicopters have become inoperative for want of spare parts and maintenance; and

(c) if so, the details of action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) (a) to (c) The Service Chiefs of Armed Forces have given feed-back to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) on the performance of the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) in their respective fleet based on the operational experience in the initial phase of induction of such complex machines. Such feed-back is essential to incorporate necessary modifications to improve the capabilities of ALH in service and maintainability. They have now evinced satisfaction on the serviceability and other aspects of ALH.

The serviceability of ALH has shown substantial improvement over a period of time with extensive product support provided by HAL in the areas of supply of spares, tools and other equipment and also technical and logistics support at operational bases.

In order to support ALH in a fun integrated manner, HAL has set up a new Division for maintenance, repair and overhaul which will have facilities for repair and overhaul of all critical systems including engine, avionics, transmission system etc. and all other equipment fitted on ALH.

Criteria for SEZs

†*153. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have laid down any criteria regarding Special Economic Zone policy in the recent past;

(b) the benefit, farmers of the country will get as a result thereof and whether they will get full money for their land and what are the State-wise details thereof;

(c) the number of SEZs approved in Haryana after SEZ policy of Government and the number of acres of land to be acquired from the farmers;

(d) the amount of compensation per acre to be paid to the farmers and the period within which such compensation would be/has been given to the farmers after land acquisition; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) the State-wise details of total number of SEZs approved so far alongwith the number of those which will be set up on fertile land and waste land separately?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The establishment of Special Ecnomic Zones (SEZs) are based on the broad policy approved by the Parliament through the SEZ Act 2005 and the SEZ Rules 2006, as amended from time to time.

(b) As per the current guidelines the land required for the SEZs is either purchased directly from the landowners or can be acquired by the respective State Governments with the consent of all the landowners. It is expected that it will result in realization of market prices for the landowners.

(c) Since the SEZ Act, 2005 and the SEZ Rules, 2006 came into effect on 10th February, 2006, formal approval has been granted for setting up of 29 SEZs in Haryana involving total land area of 1500.39 hectares.

(d) In pursuance to the decisions of the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) at its meeting held on 5th April, 2007, the State Governments have been informed on 15th June, 2007 that the Board of Approval will not approve any SEZs where the State Governments have carried out or propose to carry out compulsory acquisition of land for such SEZs after 5th April, 2007. Therefore, land required for the SEZs would now be acquired or purchased as per the consent of the landowner which is expected to result in realization of better compensation for the landowners.

(e) Land being a State subject, decision to earmark land of various types for different purposes is taken by the respective State Governments in accordance with the policies laid down by them. However, the State Governments have been advised that in case of land required for SEZs, first priority should be for waste and barren land and if necessary, single crop land should be considered. If perforce a portion of double cropped agricultural land has to be acquired to meet the minimum area, requirements, especially for multi-product SEZs, the same should not exceed 10% of the total land required for the SEZs. State-wise details of the SEZs approved so far are as follows.

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Formal approvals
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	61
2.	Chandigarh	2
3.	Chhattisgarh	1
4.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2
5.	Delhi	2
6.	Goa	7
7.	Gujarat	29
8.	Haryana	29
9.	Himachal Pradesh	_

1	2	3
10.	Jharkhand	1
1.	Karnataka	36
12.	Kerala	11
13.	Madhya Pradesh	8
14.	Maharashtra	75
15.	Nagaland	1
16.	Orissa	9
17.	Puducherry	1
18.	Punjab	6
19.	Rajasthan	5
20.	Tamil Nadu	53
21.	Uttaranchal	3
22.	Uttar Pradesh	12
23.	West Bengal	12
	TOTAL:	366

Joint exercises with US

*154. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of joint Naval, Air and Land exercises that have taken place between India and U.S.A during last five years;

(b) the details of U.S. nuclear ships participated in these joint exercises; and

(c) whether any ship with nuclear reactor or arms from any other nation has also docked at any of the Indian ports or any other facilities have been provided to them?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The details of joint Naval, Air and Land exercises conducted with USA in the last five years are as follows:-

Year	Joint Army Exercise	Joint Navy Exercise	Joint Air Exercise
1	2	3	4
2002	1	1	2
2003	2	1	1
2004	3	1	2
2005	4	1	1

1	2	3	4
2006	3	2	Nil
2007 (January to July)	1	1	Nil
TOTAL:	14	7	6

(b) Two US Navy nuclear powered Aircraft Carriers and five nuclear powered submarines have participated in Indo-US exercises so far.

(c) Ships with nuclear propulsion from other nations have docked at Indian ports in the past. None of these ships were known to carry nuclear weapons.

Feedback on implementation of NREGA

*155. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) completed a year on April, 30, the Government have got different feed-back from different States and some States are demanding extension of the NREGA Act and some other States remained lukewarm to its implementation;

(b) whether NGOs of different States have brought into focus other major issues of concern before the Union and State Governments;

(c) if so, what are the other main points which are needed for overload job scheme; and

(d) by what time these changes are necessary to implement the scheme fully?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) is demand based programme. Employment is provided if a registered job seeker possessing a job card demands wage employment and is willing to do manual work. Demand for employment varies from State to State and also within districts in a State. Being demand based, the pace of implementation of NREGA is different in different States. In the beginning, implementation of the Act was affected in some States due to State Assembly elections in some States, rains and floods and lack of staff with the implementing agencies. However, the process of implementation is now gearing up. During the year 2006-07. A total of about 2.12 crore households demanded employment out of which 2.10 crore were provided employment. 90.51 crore person days of employment was generated out of which 22.95 crore (25.36%) were SC, 32.99 crore (36.45%) ST and 36.79 crore (40.65%) for women. A total of 8.35 lakh works were taken up out of which 3.87 lakhs works were completed during the year 2006-07. A State-wise status report of implementation of the Act for the year 2006-07 is given in the Statement. Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to usq 151 Part (a).

In accordance with section 1(3) of NREGA, the Act is to be extended to the whole of the territory to which it extends with in a period of five years from the date of its enactment. NREGA was enacted on 7.9.2005. 330 Districts have already been covered under the Act in two phases. Some States have sent proposals for extension of the Act to more districts. All the districts would be covered under the Act by September, 2010.

(b) to (d) NGOs in different States have been active in awareness generation, social audit and community mobilization. The issues that emerged through the NGOs interaction with Union and State Governments are taken up for further action.

Closure of NTC mill at Gulbarga

*156. SHRI K.B. SHANAPPA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of closure of MSK mill of NTC at Gulbarga;

(b) if so, how many employees were terminated and how many employees were given VRS; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) As per the Revival Scheme for National Textile Corporation (NTC) approved by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) in the year 2002, all 66 unviable mills in NTC were to be closed under the provisions of Industrial Disputes (I.D.) Act. MSK Mill, Gulbarga, being one of these unviable mills, was closed *w.e.f.* 06.05.2002.

(b) and (c) When an industrial establishment is closed under the provisions of the I.D. Act, only retrenchment compensation is eligible. However the Government/ NTC has offered an attractive Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme (MVRS) compensation to all the employees of MSK mill, Gulbarga. 750 employees, including badli workers, who were on roll of the mill have been paid attractive MVRS compensation and the Company has spent Rs. 2293.91 lakhs for the same.

Funds for construction of border roads in N.E. States

*157. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allotted, during 2007-2008, for construction of border roads in North Eastern States; and

(b) the length of roads (in kms) expected to be added with the allocated funds during 2007-2008 in N.E. States especially in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) During 2007-2008, Border Roads Organisation (BRO) proposes to spend a sum of Rs. 221.27 crores for construction/improvement of Border Roads of Operational/strategic importance in

North Eastern States. In addition a sum of Rs.350 crores is proposed to be spent on construction of roads included under Special Accelerated Road Development Programme-North East (SARDP-NE) and roads required by ITBP in North Eastern State.

2. BRO have planned the construction/improvement of 262.49 Km of roads of Operational/strategic importance in N.E. States. Out of this 7.93 Km of road is to be constructed in Assam at the cost of Rs. 2.28 crores. BRO also have a plan to construct/improve 150.39 Km of roads in NE States under SARDP-NE. Out of this 122.04 Kms are to be constructed/improved in Assam at the cost of Rs.145.64 crores.

Coastal police stations

*158. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Centre has sanctioned 12 coastal police stations for Tamil Nadu, equipped with speed-boats and modern equipments to control infiltration;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether other coastal States have also been sanctioned similar police stations to control this menace; and,

(d) if so, the details of such police stations that have been sanctioned for Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS' (SHRIMATI RADHIKA SELVI): (a) and (b) The State of Tamil Nadu has been sanctioned 12 Coastal Police Stations, 40 Check Posts, 12 Outposts and 24 vessels, 12 jeeps and 36 motorcycles under the Coastal Security scheme for coastal patrolling. A lump sum assistance of Rs. 10 lakh per Police Station has been approved under the scheme for equipments, computers etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) For the State of Orissa; 5 coastal Police Stations and 15 vessels, 10 jeeps and 15 motorcycles have been sanctioned.

Appointment of second State Reorganisation Commission

*159. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:
SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are considering appointment of a second State Reorganisation Commission for creation of new States to attain political stability and better governance; and

(b) if so, the salient features and details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

(b) Details can be given after the final decision is taken.

Hike in cement price

†160. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cement companies have recently hiked the price of cement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that cement companies had promised Government that they will not increase the price of cement for one year;

(d) whether it is also a fact that cement companies have also reduced the production of cement with a view to continue hike in the market;

(e) if so, what is the cost of production of cement *vis-a-vis* its sale-price; and

(f) the steps Government are taking to safeguard the interests of the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b): As per Cement Manufacturers' Association, the average price of cement has increased from Rs. 158 per bag in December, 2005 to Rs. 229 per bag in July, 2007. The details of month-wise prices are given in the Statement *(See* below).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir. The production of cement by large plants in 2006-07 stood at 155.66 million tonne registering a growth of 9.77% over the production in the previous year. The capacity utilization in the cement industry was 94% during 2006-07 and 98% during first quarter of this year.

(e) The details of cost of production are not maintained as it varies from company to company.

(f) Import duty on cement has been reduced from 12.5% to Nil. Countervailing duty and special additional customs duty on cement have also been removed. Further, MMTC Ltd., a Public Sector Enterprise, has been given a special dispensation to import cement under the provisions of Cement (Quality Control)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Order, 2003 to enable early availability of significant quantities of imported cement in the market.

Statement

Details of month-wise prices of Cement

Year	Month	Average Price in Rs. per bag	Increase in Price since Dec,2005	Percentage increase in price since Dec, 2005
2005	December	158		
2006	January	163	5	3.2%
	February	175	17	10.8%
	March	189	31	19.6%
	April	199	41	25.9%
	May	200	42	26.6%
	June	201	43	27.2%
	July	201	43	27.2%
	August	201	43	27.2%
	September	202	44	27.8%
	October	205	47	29.7%
	November	208	50	31.6%
	December		51	32.3%
2007	January	209	51	32.3%
	February	212	54	34.2%
	March	225	67	42.4%
	April	226	68	43.0%
	May	226	68	43.0%
	June	227	69	43.7%
	July	229	71	44.9%

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Problems faced by paper industry

†1054. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards reduction in customs
duty and making the import of machines used in paper industry duty-free by the Indian paper industry;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to solve the problems faced by the Indian paper industry;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this industry is facing hardships due to non-availability of raw material and non-utilization of modern technique; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to remove these difficulties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) The basic custom duty on import of machinery used in paper industry has been recently reduced from 12.5% to 7.5%.

(c) Yes, Sir. There is shortage of good quality cellulosic raw material.

(d) The steps taken by the Government include rationalization of duty structure, for import of wood chips, pulp and waste paper, funding of Research & Development projects in the field of raw material & process research and quality upgradation, etc.

Pending issues of subsidy and funds for Growth Centre in Sikkim .

1055. SHRI OT. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two issues, pertaining to Sikkim, for releasing of funds for Growth Centre and Central Investment Subsidy and Transport Subsidy, are pending with Government;

(b) if so, since when and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Samlik-Marchak Growth Centre was sanctioned for Sikkim on 7.11.2003 with an estimated project cost of Rs. 3,175.88 lakhs with the central Government share of Rs. 1500 lakhs. For this, central assistance of Rs. 600 lakhs has been released till date. Further central assistance for this Growth Centre could not be released as Government of Sikkim has not furnished utilization certificate for the earlier release of Rs. 100 lakhs.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Under the Transport Subsidy Scheme and the Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme, a sum of Rs. 311 lakhs and Rs. 126 lakhs respectively has been released in the Tenth Five Year Plan for disbursai against pending claims, the last release being in January, 2007. The processing of claims and release of funds is a continuous process.

Prefrential trade agreement between India and Israel

1056. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the study group of India and Israel recommended for a Preferential Trade Agreement between India and Israel;

(b) if so, whether negotiations on this was held with the recently visited Deputy Prime Minister of Israel;

(c) if so, the areas of discussion;

(d) whether the issue of issuing long-term Visas to diamond traders of India has been raised; and

(e) if so, Israel's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Bilateral talks were held between Hon'ble Commerce and Industry Minister and the Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Industry, Trade and Labour of the State of Israel, during the latter's visit to India from December 2-8, 2006. The two Ministers reviewed the progress in implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Study Group set up by the two countries in December, 2004. They agreed to deepen the economic engagement between the two countries, and welcomed the establishment of an Indian bank in Israel and the continuing growth in the overall trade.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Government of Israel has since informed that one-year business visa (category B-l) would be issued to the diamond business persons of Indian origin.

Shortage of cement

1057. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge deficit of cement requirement in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the total production and consumption of cement both in private and public sectors in the country;

(d) what is the total demand of cement in the country, State-wise;

(e) what is the total shortage *vis-a-vis* production; and

(f) what steps are being taken to prevent sale of cement in black markets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) The production and dispatches of cement have been increasing every year. As per the Cement Manufacturers' Association, the total production of cement was 127.57 million tonnes, 141.81 million tonnes and 155.66 million tonnes in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively. However, a spurt in the prices of cement is indicative of a mismatch between demand and supply.

(c) Details regarding cement production and off-take are as under:-

(Mn.t.)

	Cement Production			Off-take
	Public Sector	Private Sector	Total	
2006-07	2.63	153.03	155.66	149.33

(d) and (e) State-wise information about demand for cement is not maintained and accordingly information regarding shortage is not quantifiable.

Import duty on cement has been reduced from 12.5% to Nil. Countervailing duty and special additional customs duty on cement have also been removed. Further, MMTC Ltd., a Public Sector Enterprise, has been given a special dispensation to import cement under the provisions of Cement (Quality Control) Order, 2003 to enable early availability of significant quantities of imported cement in the market.

FDI in Agriculture

1058. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:
SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government are considering a proposal to allow Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in agriculture sector; and

(b) if so, the details, thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) As per the extant policy FDI up to 100% is permitted under the automatic route in the under-mentioned activities *viz.,* Floriculture, Horticulture, Development of Seeds, Animal Husbandry, Pisciculture, Aqua-culture and Cultivation of Vegetables & Mushrooms, under controlled conditions and services related to agro and allied sectors. FDI up to 100% with prior Government approval is permitted in Tea plantation subject to the conditions of divestment of 26% equity of the company in favour of an Indian partner/Indian public within a period of 5 years; and prior approval of the State Government concerned in case of any future land use

change. Besides these two, FDI is not allowed in any other agricultural sector/ activity.

Permission to foreign companies for retail business

†1059. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether permission is being granted to the foreign companies by Government to enter into the retail business in India;

(b) if so, whether Government's attention has been drawn towards its effects on the domestic retail business; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent tne neglect of domestic retail products and work force by the multinational companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) No Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is allowed in retail sector except FDI in retail trade of 'Single Brand' products, where FDI up to 51% is allowed with prior Government approval. So far 17 approvals have been given for FDI in 'Single Brand' products.

(b) Government has imposed suitable safeguards against adverse impact on small traders by allowing FDI only in retail of 'Single Brand' products.

(c) FDI in Single Brand product retailing would *inter-alia,* encourage production and marketing, and increased sourcing of goods from India. Products sold under Single Brand Retail with FDI cater to the brand-conscious, young, middle class clientele having a different niche as compared to that served by the small traders and is not expected to adversely affect the existing small traders and workforce employed therein.

Overlap in the role of Tariff Commission and Chief Advisor Cost

1060. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a significant overlap in the roles of the Tariff Commission under Ministry of Commerce and Chief Advisor Cost in Department of Revenue; and

(b) if so, whether Government would merge the two or eliminate one of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

Effect of appreciation of rupee on exports

1061. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that appreciation of rupee in comparison to dollar is going to affect our export target which is going to come down as per the survey conducted by the ASSOCHAM;

(b) whether it is also a fact that appreciation of rupee in comparison to dollar during the period between January to June, 2007 have been 8.35 per cent whereas the appreciation in currency of China, Russia and Brazil have been 1.82 per cent, 2.08, per cent and 9.8 per cent respectively; and

(c) if so how the country is going to achieve the target of export and face the challenge from countries like China, Russia and Brazil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) According to the ASSOCHAM Eco Pulse (AEP) study, the appreciation of the Indian Rupee, *vis-a-vis,* the US dollar is expected to slow down export growth thereby adversely affecting production and capacity utilization of Indian industry. Latest available provisional data corroborates a deceleration in export growth from 23.4 per cent during the first quarter (April-June) of last year to 18.1 per cent during the same period of the current year. In Rupee terms the deceleration is much sharper from 28.7 per cent during April-June, 2006-07 to 6.9 per cent during April-June, 2007-08.

(b) Data of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) shows that between January-June, 2007, the Indian Rupee appreciated against the US $ by 8.04% whereas the appreciation against the currency of China, Russia and Brazil was 2.46%, 2.21 % and 9.67% respectively during the same period.

(c) In order to lessen the adverse impact of Rupee appreciation, the Government has announced a relief package to exporters comprising enhanced Duty Entitlement Passbook (DEPB) rates, reduction in Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) premium, release of Rs. 600 crore for clearing" all arrears of terminal excise duty and Central Sales-tax reimbursement, enhancement of duty drawback rates and reduction in interest rates on pre and post shipment credit.

Take over of closed tea gardens in West Bengal

1062. SHRJ PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether is a fact that Government has decided to take over some closed tea gardens in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Smuggling of Palm oil

1063. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a huge quantity of palm oil have been smuggled into our country;

(b) if so, whether Government have initiated any preventive measure to curb such huge illegal inflow of palm oil into the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not. the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) Several cases of smuggling of palm oil including crude palm oil (industrial grade) and RBD palm oil have been booked by the customs field formations. All field formations have been alerted to prevent and thwart the illegal inflow of palm oil into the country.

Exorbitant hike in cement price

†1064**.** SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that cement manufacturing companies of the country are increasing the prices of cement exorbitantly by forming a cartel;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) has issued a notice also to some companies in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government are considering to administer the prices of cement in view of the attitudes of the cement companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) As per Cement Manufacturers' Association, the average price of cement has increased from Rs. 158 per bag in December, 2005 to Rs. 229 per bag in July, 2007. The details of month-wise prices are given in the Statement-I laid on the Table of the House. *(See* below).

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(b) and (c) The details of cases pending with Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) against the Cement Industry are given in the statement-II (*See* below) laid on the Table of the House.

(d) No Sir.

Statement-I

Details of Month-wise Prices of Cement Bags

Year	Month	Average Price in Rs. per bag	Increase in Price since Dec,2005	Percentage increase in price since Dec,2005
2005	December	158		
2006	January	163	5	3.2%
	February	175	17	10.8%
	March	189	31	19.6%
	April	199	41	25.9%
	March	200	42	26.6%
	June	201	43	27.2%
	July	201	43	27.2%
	August	201	43	27.2%
	September	202	44	27.8%
	October	205	47	29.7%
	November	208	50	31.6%
	December	209	51	32.3%
2007	January	209	51	32.3%
	February	212	54	34.2%
	March	225	67	42.4%
	April	226	68	43.0%
	May	226	68	43.0%
	June	227	69	43.7%
	July	229	71	44.9%

Statement-II

Details of the Petitions pending with the MRTP Commission are as under:-

Sl. No.	Case No.	Parties - Details	Status
1	2	3	4
1.	RTPE 99/1990	DG, MRTPC *Vs.* Cement Manufacturers' Association DG MRTPC have filed an application against allegation is that the respondents increased the prices at short intervals without corresponding increase in cost of production. It was also alleged that there was little variation in the prices of several cement manufacturers in the same region in spite of the fact that the cost of production was not identical.	Final arguments since 23.7.07.
2.	MTPE 2/1992	DG MRTPC *Vs.* Associated Cement Co. Ltd., Mumbai The DG, MRTPC filed an application against ACC Ltd, Mumbai in 1992 alleging that ACC had increased the prices from time to time without any corresponding increase in the cost of production leading to unreasonable increase in profits.	Listed for final arguments on 7.9.07.
3.	RTPE 83/2000	DG MRTPC & M/s. Gayatri Agencies Kanchipuram *Vs.* Cement Manufacturers' Association, Chennai This pertains to a complaint filed by M/s. Gayatri Agency against Cement Manufacturers' Association, Chennai alleging that the CMA did not give free hand to the informant in the matter of prices, sale and distribution of cement by imposing various restrictions.	Listed for cross examination on 29.11.07.
4.	RTPE 21/2001	Sh. Servejit S. Mokha & Another *Vs.* Cement Manufacturers' Association & Others This is a complaint filed by Shri S.S. Mokha and Another against CMA and 10 others alleging that the said cement manufacturers had formed cartel and increased the prices.	Listed for final arguments on 3.9.07.

1	2	3	4
5.	RTPE 32/2006	DG, MRTPC *Vs.* Gujarat Ambuja Cement Ltd. & Two Others The DG, MRTPC filed an application against Gujarat Ambuja Cement Ltd, ACC Ltd. and Grasim India Ltd in July, 2006 alleging that the said companies have acted in concert and created artificial scarcity of supplies and rise in prices in the market. It was alleged that it amounts to manipulate the supplies of cement in the market leading to rise in price.	Listed on 21.8.07 for framing of issues
6.	UTPE 86/2006	DG, MRTPC *Vs.* Various Cement Manufacturers This case pertains to alleged cartelization by cement manufacturers and the MRTPC *prima facie* found that the allegations made in the newspapers amounted to manipulation of prices. As such the Commission directed the DG to investigate the media report and submit preliminary investigation report. The report was filed by DG and the matter is now listed.	Listed on 25.10.07 for framing of issues.
7.	RTPE 52/2006	The Builders Association of India *Vs.* Cement Manufacturers' Association This is a reference from the Rajya Sabha Secretariat forwarding a reference from Builders' Association of India alleging increased prices without any corresponding increase in excise duty, lime stone, royalty, sales tax, railway freight, etc. The Commission referred this representation to the DG for investigation.	Under preliminary investigation.
8.	RTPE 1/2007	DG MRTPC *Vs.* Associated Cement Companies Ltd. This case pertains to M/s. ACC Ltd and was received by MRTP Commission in 2006. The facts of the case are that the agreement entered into by the ACC Ltd. and M/s. Bulk Cement Corporation (India) Ltd, *prima-facie* contained certain restrictive trade practices as defined under Section 33 of the MRTP Act. It-was also stated that the MRP fixed was very high and it is above the cost of production of cement. The report concluded that higher MRP attracted the provisions of Standards of Weight and Measures (Packed Commodities)	The report of DG (I&R) is awaited.

1	2	3	4
		Rules and Consumer Protection Act. The MRTP Commission have referred this matter to the DG for investigation.	
9.		RTPE 4/2007 Jaimeen Steel Corporation *Vs.* Gujarat Ambuja Cement Ltd.	Matter listed for 31.8.07 for further directions.
		This is a complaint filed by a dealer, Jaimeen Steel Corporation against Gujarat Ambuja Cements Ltd. The complaint was registered in the Commission on 22.1.07 and it was referred to the DG(I&R) for investigation. The grievance of the complainant is regarding the goods supplied by the company and the payments made by the dealer. It was alleged, without referring to any section of the MRTP Act, 1969, that the company is resorting to discriminatory and restrictive trade practices. The complaint does not pertain to cartelization by cement companies. The DG has filed the Preliminary Investigation Report (PIR). The PIR was considered by the Commission and the matter is listed for 31.8.07 for further directions.	

According priority to Agri Export Zones

1065. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agri Export Zones (AEZs) numbering 60 and spread over 20 States have so far garnered an investment of Rs. 866 crore and achieved export of Rs. 5,413 crores over the last five years against an envisaged investment of Rs. 1718 crore and export of Rs. 11,822 crore;

(b) if so, whether any measures are being taken to accord priority so as to attract investment into this area and particularly in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) 60 Agri Export Zones (AEZs) have crystallized an investment of Rs. 866.40 crore and exports of Rs. 5649.14 crore over the last five years against an envisaged investment of Rs. 1717.95 crore and export of Rs. 11821.47.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Efforts are on to revitalize select AEZs through funding under the "Assistance to States for Developing Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities" (ASIDE) Scheme. 16 projects, envisaging an investment of about Rs. 48.85 crore in

4 AEZs, have been short listed for implementation under the Scheme. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has appointed M/s. Yes Bank as an advisor for fast tracking of 3 AEZs through public private partnership.

APEDA has also:

(i) provided financial assistance for setting up of Pack houses and Vapour Heat Treatment facilities by Andhra Pradesh State, Industrial Development Corporation (AGROS) at a cost of Rs. 8.34 crores each in the Tirupati and Nuzvid Districts in Andhra Pradesh.

(ii) given an in-principal approval for setting up of common aseptic packing facility in Mango cluster in Chitoor at a cost of Rs.4.40 crore.

(d) Does not arise

Trade on Attari-Wagah border

†1066. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to promote trade on Attari-Wagah border;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it would be possible to start trading on the said Indo-Pak borders alongwith the names of the products proposed to be included in the trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the Fourth Round of India-Pakistan Commerce Secretary-level talks on Economic and Commercial Cooperation within the framework of Composite Dialogue held in New Delhi on 31 July -1 August, 2007, enhancement of trade through Attari-Wagah border was, *inter-alia,* discussed. Both sides briefed about their plans to develop Integrated Check-post (ICP) at this border and agreed to continue the exchange of information on the development in this regard on either side.

(c) At present, both India and Pakistan use Attari-Wagah rail route for their bilateral trade. As regards road route through Attari-Wagah, while India has already notified Attari Land Customs Station (LCS) for bilateral trade, since 1994, Pakistan is yet to open Wagah on their side for bilateral trade except for import of certain essential commodities from India since May 2005. These items consist of certain live animals, halal meats, onions, potatoes, tomatoes, and garlic. India has requested Pakistan to open Wagah on a permanent basis for all commodities for bilateral trade through this road route. The enhancement of bilateral trade and the items to be traded between the two countries through Attari-Wagah will depend upon the opening of Wagah road route by Pakistan, operationalisation of Integrated Check Posts on both sides and giving up of positive list approach by Pakistan.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

Effects of study on big houses on retail market

†1067. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA: DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any institute had been entrusted the job to collect information about . the effects of big houses in the retail market of the country;

(b) if so, the name of the institute and time when this responsibility was entrusted to it;

(c) whether there is any association of representatives of non-unorganised retail market in this institute;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether this institute has submitted its interim report to Government;

(f) if so, the details of this report and whether this report has been made public; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has instituted a study in March, 2007 to assess the impact of organised retailing on unorganised retail trade including small retailers and vendors, through Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). A study on 'Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India and its Growth linkages' entrusted to the National Council on Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in July, 2007 also has a component on impact of FDI on service sector in the rural economy.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. List of elected members of the Board of Governors of ICRIER as available at its website *(www.icrier.org)* is given in the Statement (See below).

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

Statiement

COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Elected Members

1. Shri Uday S. Kotak,

   Vice Chairman & Managing
   Director, Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

2. Dr. R.A. Mashelkar,
FRS,President,

Indian National Science Academy

3. Dr. Kirit S. Parikh,
Member, Planning
Commission

4. Dr. Swati A. Piramal,

Director - Strategic Alliances & Communications,
Nicholas Piramal India Limited

5. Ms. Janaki Kathpalia,
Former Additional Secretary, Ministry of
Finance, Deptt. of Economic Affairs

6. Dr. Vijay Kelkar,

Former Advisor to Minister of Finance, Ministry of
Finance, Chairman, IDFC Asset Management Company

7. Dr. Rakesh Mohan,

Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India

8. Shri N.
Ravi, Editor,
The Hindu

9. Shri Aman Mehta,

Former Chief Executive, Hongkong Shanghai Banking Corporation

10. Prof. Shankar N. Acharya,

Former Chief Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance and
Honorary Professor, ICRIER

Co-opted Members

Shri N.K. Singh,

Former Member, Planning Commission

Shri Nitin Desai,

Former Dy. Secretary-General UN Conference on Environment &
Devlopment

and Presently Honorary Professor, ICRIER

Ms. Chanda Kochhar, Dy. Managing
Director, ICICI Bank Limited

Overseas Members

Prof. Arvind Panagariya, Professor of Economics & Professor of Indian
Political Economy, Columbia University.

Member Secretary

Dr. Rajiv Kumar,

Director & Chief Executive.

Special Economic Zones

1068. DR. BARUN MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the year/month-wise and State-wise break up of the total number of SEZs approved/awaiting approval from the date of commencement till date; and

(b) the types of industry/project area (acres) involved and the proposed amount of investment and expected employment generation in each of these SEZs?,

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) State-wise details of the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) approved since the SEZ Act, 2005 and the SEZ Rules, 2006 came into effect on 10th February, 2006 and proposals awaiting approval are as follows:-

Sl.	Name of the State/UT	Formal approvals		In principle	Proposals awaiting
		From 10.02.2006 to 31.03.2007	2007-08 (till 20.08.2007)		
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	44	17	8	16
2.	Chandigarh	2	-	•	-
3.	Chhattisgarh	-	1	2	3
4.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	2	1	-
5.	Delhi	1	1	-	4
6.	Goa	4	3	-	8
7.	Gujarat	19	10	9	9
8.	Haryana	19	10	28	27
9.	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	4	-
10.	Jharkhand	1	-	-	2
11.	Karnataka	27	9	17	42
12.	Kerala	10	1	2	12
13.	Madhya Pradesh	4	4	7	9
14.	Maharashtra	47	28	35	45
15.	Nagaland	-	1	-	1
16.	Orissa	5	4	6	4
17.	Puducherry	1	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6
18.	Punjab	4	2	7	3
19.	Rajasthan	3	2	11	3
20.	Tamil Nadu	25	28	12	28
21.	Uttaranchal	3	-	1	-
22.	Uttar Pradesh	8	4	10	25
23.	West Bengal	7	5	16	23
	TOTAL:	234	132	17	**264**

(b) The type of SEZs approved so far include Information Technology (IT)/ Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES)/Electronic Hardware (EH), Textiles/ Apparel/Wool, Pharma/Chemicals, Petro-Chemicals, Biotech, Engineering/Aviation/ Aerospace, Auto components, Footwear/leather, Gems & Jewellery, Power/Alternate Energy, Free Trade and Warehousing Zone (FTWZ), Metal/Steel/Aluminium/ Foundry, Food Processing, Non-Conventional Energy, Handicrafts, Agro based industries, Multi Product (including Port based and Airport based Multi Product) and Multi Services. The total area involved in the 366 formal approvals granted so far is approx. 48,890 hectares. As per the projections made, if all the 366 SEZs become operational, investment of over Rs. 3,00,000 crore would take place and approximately 4 million additional jobs are likely to get created by 2009-10.

India's participation in Doha talks

†1069. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S.A. and other European countries seem to agree to discontinue subsidy amount of their respective country given for agriculture to make progress in Doha-talks under World Trade Organisation;

(b) if not, the details thereof;

(c) if U.S.A. and other European countries do not agree on the above issue, whether India would declare its decision not to participate in the so called talks; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) On 17 July, 2007, the Chairman of the World Trade Organisation's Committee on Agriculture-Special Session (COA-SS), brought out a Draft Modalities text comprising proposals for the Doha Round negotiations in agriculture. The Draft Modalities can be accessed on the website of the World Trade Organisation *(www.wto.org).*

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

The Draft Modalities text does not suggest discontinuation of Overall Trade-Distorting Domestic Support (OTDS). The text, *inter-alia,* proposes a tiered formula for reduction of OTDS and also suggests a range of cuts in each tier. The range of cuts in OTDS suggested for the European Communities and the United States of America are 75% to 85% and 66% to 73% respectively. The text further proposes higher cuts by developed countries, which have a high OTDS of 40 percent or more of their total value of agricultural production. The Draft Modalities text is scheduled to be discussed in detail from 3 September, 2007 in meetings of the COA-SS.

Extension of rebates to IT industry

†1070. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether IT industry is demanding an exclusive SEZ for itself or its inclusion in the existing SEZs;

(b) whether this demand of the industry is based on its apprehension that the rebates available to it would be withdrawn by 2009 and if its SEZs are set up then these rebates may be available for long term; and

(c) whether Government propose to extend the rebates and concessions to IT industry even beyond 2009 so that there might not be any need of SEZ for this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) In terms of the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 and Special Economic Zones Rules, 2006, Sector Specific Special Economic Zone (SEZ) can be set up exclusively for Electronics Hardware and Software including Information Technology Enabled Services subject to the developer meeting the requirements specified in the SEZ Act, 2005 and the SEZ Rules, 2006. The SEZ Policy provides for procedural simplification and ease of operations through Single window; mechanism and fiscal concessions are just one part of it. No proposal to extend the income tax concessions for IT industry is under consideration.

Separate deep sea fisheries body under MPEDA

1071. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MPEDA is forming a separate body to focus directly on deep sea fisheries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this off-shoot of MPEDA will be based and made operational from Visakhapatnam;

(d) in what way does MPEDA have any experience of operating boats; and

(e) the steps proposed to ensure that MPEDA focuses and concentrates on its core duty of marine products exports only?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir;

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above;

(d) and (e) Under Section 9 of the Marine Products Export Development Authority Act 1972, MPEDA has been empowered to undertake a slew of activities related to promotion of marine exports including the regulation of deep sea fishing and registration of fishing vessels. Among the steps being taken in pursuance of the above mentioned mandate are extending financial assistance to the seafood processing industry, promoting aquaculture in all maritime States, value addition, upgrading of the processing facilities, giving wide publicity to Indian marine products on a global scale, conversion of existing fishing vessels to tuna long liners; trainings for technologists, processors, fish handlers, boat crew, fishermen etc.

Centres for agri-perishables for exports

1072. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has identified 12 locations for setting up of centres for handling agri-perishables for exports at an estimated cost of Rs. 2500 crores;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that besides this the Ministry has announced the development of six spice parks across the country for various spices; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) A study on Infrastructure Development instituted by APEDA has recommended setting up of 12 Centres for handling agro perishables for Exports at an estimated cost of Rs. 2500 crores.

(b) The Spices Board has proposed setting up of six spice parks in the major spice growing centers of the country.

(c) (i) Details of Centres for Handling Agro Perishables for Exports are:

Sl. No.	Location of CPC	State
1	Chandigarh	Punjab
2	Rai	Haryana
3	Agra	Uttar Pradesh
4	Muzafarpur	Bihar
5	Kolkatta	West Bengal
6	Guwahati	Meghalya
7	One each at Mumbai, Nashik, Pune & Nagpur	Maharashtra
8	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
9	Dharmapuri	Tamil Nadu

(ii) Details of the six spice parks:

Sl. No	District & State	Name of the spice
1	Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh	dehydrated garlic and green chilli extract
2	Idukki, Kerala	cardamom and pepper
3	Erode, Tamilnadu	turmeric
4	Guntur, Andhra Pradesh	chillies
5	Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh	mint and mint products
6	Kota/Jalore, Rajasthan	coriander, cumin, fennel and fenugreek

Failure of AEZs

1073. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that six years after their inception not even one of the 60 approved Agri-Export Zones(AEZs), precursors to today's dedicated export zones, has taken off as per the Ministry's plans;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the review by the Ministry last year has revealed that the zones had missed their export targets and investments were only half of the originally estimated Rs. 1,700 crore and not a single zone is active; and

(c) if so, whether Government have tried to investigate to find out reasons for failure of AEZs and the action proposed to make them a success?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The AEZ, have shown mixed result. Some of the AEZ, have done well while others have not. These AEZs have crystallized an investment of Rs. 866.40 crore and exports of Rs. 5649.14 crore over the last five years against an envisaged investment of Rs. 1717. 95 crore and export of Rs. 11821.47 crore.

(c) A peer evaluation of the AEZs was carried out with a view to ascertain the reasons for shortfall in their performance and to suggest a remedial action plan. The review revealed that the AEZ were not able to make headway, mainly, owing to lack of:

(0 proactive push either by the State Government or by the Central Government or by their agencies to implement schemes in the AEZs;

(ii) project orientation in their conceptual design;

(iii) awareness amongst the field functionaries about the concept of AEZs ;

(iv) effective agency to coordinate with other implementing agencies and monitor the performance of the AEZs; and

(v) effective public participation.

The main elements of the remedial action plan are setting up of institutional administrative mechanism for coordinating and monitoring the progress of implementation of AEZs and short listing of a few AEZs for special focus.

Effect of unrestricted export of iron ore

1074. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that iron ore from India is being exported unrestrictedly, thus leading to a huge gap between demand and supply in the country;

(b) whether Government are aware that the demand for steel within the country is increasing;

(c) what steps Government are planning to take to regulate export of iron ore from the country; and

(d) if so, the time frame therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The existing iron ore export policy regulates and promotes judicious use of iron ore for domestic purpose and export of surplus quantity. Even after exporting iron ore surplus after meeting domestic demand, there are still surpluses left.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Government permits export of iron ore with iron content upto 64% without canalization. While export of iron ore with more than 64% iron content is canalized through MMTC Ltd., Government permits export of iron of iron ore fines with more than 64% iron content against licence by private mine owners/ leaseholders. Government has also imposed export duty on iron ore fines of iron content 62% and below @ Rs. 50 per metric tonne and on iron ore fines with iron content above 62% and on iron ore lumps @ Rs. 300 per tonne *w.e.f.* 1.3.2007.

Production of iron ore is in excess of current domestic demand. The surplus iron ore fines, produced during mining as well as sizing and calibrating of lumpy ore is being evacuated through exports as there is less demand for it from the domestic steel industry.

Effect of duty free import of vegetable oil on Indian industries

†1075. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is **a** fact that there is an import duty on raw palm oil, whereas vegetable oil imported from Sri Lanka and Nepal is completely duty free;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(b) whether it is also a fact that some big companies manufacturing vegetable oil are setting up their manufacturing units in Sri Lanka and thus manufacturing
vegetable oil by purchasing palm oil from Malaysia and thereafter exporting it to India;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to this approximately half of the manufacturing units engaged in vegetable oil industry have been closed in the country; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken during the last one year to save the vegetable oil industry of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) All Vanaspati oil manufacturing units in Sri Lanka have to obtain licences from Board of Investment, Government of Sri Lanka, which is under the domain of Government of Sri Lanka. As far as export of duty free Vanaspati oil from Sri Lanka to India is concerned, both Government of India and Government of Sri Lanka have formulated Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) of 2,50,000 MT per annum. This TRQ will be monitored by Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) as per the provisions of the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP). TRQ will also be distributed equally amongst four quarters to ensure a steady supply of vanaspati, bakery shortening and margarine. To ensure quality control of Vanaspati, it has been mandated that all imports of Vanaspati will have to adhere to the requirements of the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act. The import of Vanaspati from Nepal has been restricted to 1 lakh MT per annum. It is incorrect to say that Vanaspati oil industry is being closed because of this reason alone. The Government has negotiated Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQs) with both countries to safeguard the interest of the domestic industry.

Increase in investment in Mumbai-Delhi corridor infrastructure project

1076. SHRI P.R .RAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has increased the investment in Mumbai-Delhi corridor infrastructure project;

(b) what are the developments being envisaged through the scheme;

(c) whether any foreign countries are interested in the scheme; and

(d) the time limit of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) The Government has recently approved 'in principle' the project outline of "Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor" (DMIC) Project.

(b) The Project envisages to improve industrial infrastructure and to leverage the existing/planned projects in infrastructural sectors particularly rail and road. In the first phase, 12 industrial nodes are proposed to be developed, which would include self contained Industrial Townships with world class infrastructure, logistic hubs, reliable power, quality social infrastructure and improved connectivity.

(c) The Government of India had signed an MOU with the Government of Japanto develop the project outline of the DMIC Project. The concept paper has since been finalized.

(d) The first phase of the project is envisaged to be implemented during 2008-2012.

Effect of unsustainable tax breaks and physical incentives to industrial projects

1077. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prime Minister warned the State Governments against unhealthy practice of providing unsustainable tax breaks and physical incentives to industrial projects at Northern Chief Minister's Conclave organized by PHD Chambers of Commerce and Industry on 28th September, 2006, in Chandigarh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that he advised to remove the barriers on Inter-State trade; and

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal before Government to implement the advise of the Prime Minister?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Hon'ble Prime Minister, while addressing the Northern Chief Minister's Conclave organized by the PHD Chambers of Commerce an Industry on 28th September, 2006 at Chandigarh, had referred to unsustainable fisca incentives and tax breaks provided for promoting industrial development and urged the State Governments to enable a common economy and a single market to emerge. Hon'ble Prime Minister had also advised the State Governments to remove barriers on inter-State trade to facilitate movement of people and goods.

(c) Removal of barriers on inter-State trade and tax breaks referred to in the speech are subjects under the purview of State Governments.

Approval to SEZs

1078. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that approvals for more than 150 SEZs have been granted by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of new approvals likely to be accorded, State-wise;

(c) whether there is any proposal before Government to change the guidelines and rules for SEZs in view of the public authority; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Since the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 and the Special Economic Zones Rules, 2006 came into effect on 10th February, 2006, Government has so far granted 366 formal approvals for setting up Special Economic Zones (SEZs). Besides, in-principle approval has been granted in 176 cases. State-wise details of the formal and in-principJe approvals' granted so far and the proposals awaiting approval are as follows:-

SI. No.	Name of the State/UT	Formal approvals	In principle approvals	Proposals awaiting approval
1.	Andhra Pradesh	61	8	16
2.	Chandigarh	2	-	-
3.	Chhattisgarh	1	2	3
4.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	2	1	-
5.	Delhi	2	-	4
6.	Goa	7	-	8
7.	Gujarat	29	9	9
8.	Haryana	29	28	27
9.	Himachal Pradesh	-	4	-
10.	Jharkhand	1	-	2
11.	Karnataka	36	17	42
12.	Kerala	11	2	12
13.	Madhya Pradesh	8	7	9
14.	Maharashtra	75	37	45
15.	Nagaland	1	-	1
16.	Orissa	9	6	4
17.	Puducherry	1	.-	. -
18.	Punjab	6	7	3
19.	Rajasthan	5	10	3
20.	Tamil Nadu	53	12	28
21.	Uttaranchal	3	1	~
22.	Uttar Pradesh	12	10	25
23.	West Bengal	12	15	23
	TOTAL :	366	176	264

(c) and (d) The SEZ Rules are reviewed and amended from time to time and two amendments have already been carried out on 10th August 2006 and 16th March 2007 respectively. The Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) at its meeting held on 5th April 2007 after considering various issues related to the SEZs had fixed the upper limit of the area required for multi product SEZs at 5000 hectares and fixed the minimum processing area uniformly at 50% for multi product SEZs as well as sector specific SEzs. The SEZ approvals are being now granted by the Board of approval in terms of the said directives. Accordingly, suitable amendments to the SEZ Rules, 2006, are under process. In pursuance of the decisions of the EGOM, the State Governments have been informed on 15 June, 2007 that the Board of Approval will not approve any SEZs where the State Governments have carried out or propose to carry out compulsory acquisition of land for such SEZs after 5th April, 2007.

Impact of FTAs on Vanaspati Industry

1079. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Free Trade Agreements with Thailand, Nepal and Sri Lanka have hit the Vanaspati Industry;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that some Indian producers are routing their products through these countries to avail of duty exemption; and

(c) Government's reaction on (a) and (b) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Vanaspati is not in the Negative List under India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and India-Nepal Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Vanaspati is also not in the Early Harvest Scheme (EHS) of India-Thailand Framework Agreement. Hence, in order to protect the domestic vanaspati industry, the Government has formalized Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) of 2,50,000 MT per annum of vanaspati including bakery shortening and margarine with Sri Lanka and 1,00,000 MT per annum of vanaspati with Nepal.

Proposal to leverage the freight corridor

1080. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to leverage the freight corridor and the golden Quadrilateral National Highway from Delhi to Mumbai by promoting an industrial corridor comprising large number of units;

(b) if so, whether this industrial corridor be developed with Japanese participation; and

(c) whether this corridor have supporting infrastructural facilities like rail connectivity to port en-route, development of ports on our west coast, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Recently, the Government of India have accorded, in-principle,

approval to the Project outline of Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) Project, which proposes to leverage high speed connectivity offered by Delhi-Mumbai Rail Freight Corridor and the Golden Quadrilateral National Highway between Delhi-Mumbai for industrial development.

(b) The Government of India had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Japan to develop the DMIC Project. The concept paper has been finalized.

(c) Yes, Sir. It is envisaged that under the DMIC Project, connectivity will be provided to the identified industrial nodes with Dedicated Rail Freight Corridor, National Highway and ports on the western coast.

Export of minerals

1081. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total quantity of export annually in respect of iron ore, bauxite ore, manganese ore to China and other countries from India;

(b) how long are our deposits expected to last at the present rate of exports; and

(c) would Government consider banning these exports and go in for value added production in the country itself?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Country-wise exports of iron ore, manganese ore and bauxite for the last three years is given in the Statement (See below).

(b) As on 1.4.2005, iron ore resources in India are estimated at 25.25 billion tonnes. At the current rate of consumption and export the iron ore resources will last for approximately 172 years. As regards deposits and consumption of bauxite ore and manganese ore, the information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration at present to ban these exports.

Statement

Iron Ore Exports (Country-wise):

(Quantity in Million Metric Tonnes)

Country	2004-2005	2005-06	2006-07 (Prov.)
1	2	3	4
China	59.40	74.13	80.16
Japan	11.13	10.33	8.63
S. Korea	2.18	1.32	1.91
Taiwan	0.61	0.14	

1	2	3	4
Europe	2.89	2.10	2.07
Others	1.93	1.25	1.02
TOTAL:	78.14	89.27	93.79

Source; Goa Mineral Ore Exporters Association (GMOEA), Kudrernukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL), MMTC Limited and Private Exporters

Managanese Ore Exports (Country-wise):

(Quantity in Lakh Metric Tonnes)

Country	2004-2005	2005-06	2006-07 (Prov.)
China	2.56	1.45	0.77
Japan	0.38	0.54	0.60
S. Korea	0.32	0.33	•
Pakistan	-	-	0.33
Bangladesh	0.07	0.03	-
Total:	3.33	2.35	1.70

(Source: MMTC Ltd.)

Bauxite Exports:

(Quantity in Lakh Kgs)

Country	2004-2005	2005-06	2006-07 (Apr-Dec-06)
China	128	1130	3303
Others	9750	20825	25870
Total:	9878	21955	29173

(Source: CAPEXIL, Kolkatta)

Trade with Pakistan through LoC in Jammu and Kashmir

1082. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased **to** state:

(a) whether it is a fact Pakistan is willing to have trade with India through LoC in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, at how many places the trade will be allowed;

(c) whether the modalities have been finalized between the representatives of two countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether Pakistan is agree to MFN status to India;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) During the India-Pakistan technical level talks on cross LoC confidence building measures held in New Delhi on May 2, 2006, it was agreed that trade in certain approved items would be permitted across the LoC.

(b) to (e) It was further decided to ensure operationalization of the truck service across the LoC and to agree on five crossing points. For the Srinagar-Muzzafarabad truck service, India has notified Salamabad as land customs station and construction of the building for this purpose has been completed. India and Pakistan have exchanged lists of commodities which, are proposed by either side to be traded across LoC. Discussions are underway on finalization of this list and other modalities. Pakistan has not yet agreed to grant MFN status to India citing extraneous political-economic and other reasons.

Effect of export duty on Iron ore and Chrome ore

1083. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government imposed export duty on Iron ore and Chrome ore on 1st March, 2007 and if so, what is the impact of this duty on export of these minerals;

(b) whether the export has increased or decreased, the State-wise details thereof;

(c) whether the export prices, after imposing the duty, has increased or decreased;

(d) if so, to what extent; and

(e) whether Government is planning to revise/reduce/remove the duty on above minerals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b), Yes, Sir. Statement showing the quantum of iron ore and chrome ore exports from various ports from India from April to June 2006 *vis-a-vis* April to June 2007 is given in the Statement *{See* below). There is a reduction of 4% in iron ore exports. Similarly, there is reduction of 41 % in chrome ore exports.

(c) and (d) Consequent to the imposition of export duty, increase in prices has been noticed in the Chinese market for sales of iron ore on spot basis. The prices have increased by about 22% to 38% depending on grade, port and shipment period. In the case of chrome ore the prices have increased by about 71% to 74% depending upon grade of chrome ore.

(e) There is no proposal under consideration at present.

Statement

India's port-wise Iron Ore export

(Quantity in lakh tonnes)

Port	2006-07 (Apr-June) (Prov)	2007-08 (Apr-June) (Prov)
Belekeri	5.88	9.64
Chennai	24.85	23.66
Ennore	2.38	5.10
Goa	100.94	90.06
Haldia	21.89	20.98
Hazira	3.15	-
Kakinada	10.67	7.19
Karwar	6.98	4.88
Krishnapatnam	2.00	1.00
New Mangalore	16.83	13.97
Paradip	29.06	30.15
Redi Port	1.54	1.51
Vizag	11.07	19.17
TOTAL:	237.24	227.31

Source: Goa Mineral ore Exporters Association (GMOEA). Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL), MMTC Limited and Private Exporters

India's port-wise Chrome Ore export

(Quantity in lakh tonnes)

Port	2006-07 (Apr-June) (Prov)	2007-08 (Apr-June) (Prov)
All exports from Paradip	1.71	1.01

Source: MMTC Limited

Development of industrially backward states

1084. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether there is a proposal under active consideration of Government to formulate a scheme to develop the industrially backward States in the Country as per the Fifth Economic Census Report;

(b) If so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the recommendations made in the report for the development of such States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRJ ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The All India Report on the provisional results of the 5th Economic Census released in June, 2006 has neither categorised any State/Union Territory as industrially backward nor made any recommendation for the development of industrially backward States. The Report only provides State-wise data on the number and growth of enterprises and persons employed, selected characteristics of the enterprises, the percentage of agricultural and non-agricultural enterprises in the total enterprises, percentage of hired workers and adult female workers in the total workforce and the average annual growth in enterprises and employment in 2005, as compared to 1998.

Increase in cement price

1085. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cement price in our country is increasing day by day and cement industry are taking advantages of the demand supply mismatch;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto for curtailing the prices of cement products while curbing industry's earning of excessive profits in the country; and

(c) whether Government is considering to import cement products in the country, if so, the details of cement products and rates in other parts of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) As per Cement Manufacturers' Association, the average price of cement has increased from Rs. 158 per bag in December, 2005 to 229 per bag in July, 2007. The details of month-wise prices are given in the Statement. Refer to the Statement Appended to the Answer to usq 1064 Part (a). Spurt in the prices of cement is indicative of a mismatch between demand and supply.

(b) and (c) Import duty on cement has been reduced from 12.5% to Nil. Countervailing duty and special additional customs duty on cement have also been removed. Further, MMTC Ltd., a Public Sector Enterprise, has been given a special dispensation to import cement under the provisions of Cement (Quality Control) Order, 2003 to enable early availability of significant quantities of imported cement in the market which in turn is expected to have a salutory effect on prices.

Flouting ban on export of pulses

1086. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics have been regularly updating Government on pulses being shipped out during the ban period;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government had taken against the exporters who had flouted the ban on the export of pulses, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics brings out after a time lag of about six month and makes available regularly on monthly basis the publication 'Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India'; Volume-I (Exports) that gives item-wise details of export.

(c) Cases have been registered against three exporters *viz.* M/S. KRBL Ltd., M/S Jet King International and M/S Kohinoor Foods with CBI. Action under FTDR Act has also been initiated against the above named exporters for suspension/ cancellation of IEC and imposition of penalty.

New Field firing range in A.P.

1087. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has permitted the establishment of a new field firing range in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the life safety measures adopted to prevent firing accidents; and

(c) the details of relief and rehabilitation measures taken by Government to compensate the victims?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of reply in (a) above.

Construction of road upto base camp of Mount Everest by Chinese Government

1088. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chinese Government are constructing a 105 km long road up to the base camp of Mount Everest;

(b) if so, whether Government have examined the implications of the Chinese proposal from the point of view of country's defence as also the environmental angle; and

(c) if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Xinhua (official Chinese news agency) reported on 19th June 2007 that China would begin building a "highway" on Mount Everest in Tibet Autonomous Region so as to ease the path of those bearing the Olympic torch. Construction of the road will kick off at Everest Base Camp. The project aims to turn a 108-km rough road linking Tingri County of Xigaze prefecture at the foot of the mountain to the Base Camp into a blacktop highway fenced by undulating guardrails. On completion, the highway will become a major route for tourists and mountaineers. The Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.

Procurement of fighter aircrafts for IAF

†1089. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 126 fighter planes are being procured for the Indian Air Force;

(b) whether there has been an understanding with Russia/America for partnership regarding joint development and manufacturing of fighter planes; and

(c) by when the fighter planes are likely to be procured?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Government is processing a case for procurement of 126 Multi Medium Role Combat Aircraft for the Indian Air Force.

(b) There is no understanding at present with either Russia or America regarding joint development or manufacturing of these fighter planes.

(c) The purchase of aircraft is being made in accordance with the Defence Procurement Procedure-2006 which also indicates likely time to be taken for conclusion of contracts for such major purchases.

Foreign tour of Indian Army Officers

1090. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether military officers are allowed to contact the foreign missions directly;

(b) whether it is a fact that foreign tour of several Indian Army Officers on the invitation of United States of America were permitted by his Ministry as reported in the media;

(c) whether the Naval Chief has defined this tour of military officers as the violation of security rules; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The Military Officers may deal with foreign missions for specific purposes after obtaining prior approval of competent authority.

(b) The Government of United States of America (USA) invites serving defence officers of India to visit the USA as part of their IMET programme (International Military Education and Training) and bilateral defence cooperation programme. Such visits are for the purposes of training and bilateral reciprocal visits.

(c) and (d) The Chief of Naval Staff had not raised any objections on such visits by defence personnel to the USA.

Army Cantonment in Hoshiyarpur

†1091. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had considered to set up an army cantonment in the district of Hoshiyarpur a few years ago;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a survey has also been conducted by Government to set up a cantonment area;

(c) if so, the amount incurred on getting the survey done;

(d) the time it will take for the implementation of this scheme; and

(e) the details of the action taken in this regard? .

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) There is no proposal for establishment of a cantonment under the Cantonments Act, 2006 at Hoshiyarpur District in Punjab.

(b) to (e) The question does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Shortage of Officers

1092. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of officers in the Armed Forces of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, force-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Government to fill the vacant posts in the Armed Forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) There is a shortage of officer in the Armed Forces. The details are as follows:-

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

	Army	Navy	Air Force
Authorised strength	46615	8797	12128
Positioned strength	35377	7336	10563
Shortage	11238	1461	1565

Several steps have been undertaken by the three Services to fill up the vacant posts. All officers including those in Short Service Commission (SSC) are now eligible to hold substantive rank of Captain, Major and Lieutenant Colonel after 2, 6 and 13 years of reckonable service respectively. Time scale promotion to the rank of Colonel and equivalent after 26 years of service has also been introduced. Government has also issued orders extending the tenure of SSC officers from 10 years to 14 years.

Besides, the Armed Forces have undertaken sustained image projection and publicity campaign to create awareness among the youth on the advantages of taking up a challenging and satisfying career. Candidate-friendly recruitment procedures to attract more number of candidates and a focused publicity drive in various institutions to attract potential candidates have been undertaken. Awareness campaigns, participation in career fairs and exhibitions, advertisements in print and electronic media, motivational lectures in schools, colleges are also some of the other measures in this direction.

The Government has also appointed 6th Central Pay Commission to go into the question of revision of pay and allowances etc. of all the Government servants including the Armed Forces. The three Services have presented a joint memorandum to the Pay Commission suggesting revision of pay and allowances and other conditions. The matter has also been discussed with the Pay Commission by the three Services Chiefs and officers in the Ministry of Defence.

Pending cases against army officials

†1093. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of cases are pending in courts against the officers and other ranks in the Army in various parts of the country;

(b) the number of such cases which come under the category of serious offences and action taken by the Army thereon; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating to amend the law or start any other scheme for early disposal of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) There are 41 court martial cases pending against army personnel which require a disposal by a forum higher than summary court martial.

However, the number of cases pending against army personnel in various courts is 25 only which includes 6 cases filed before special court of CBI.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

Out of 41 court martial cases, 35 cases are related to serious offences such as property, murder, rape and other offences of physical assault. Trial proceedings by courts martial or civil courts in such matters is an ongoing process.

(c) No amendment is contemplated as the existing law/rules are considered adequate. However, to provide a meaningful opportunity of appeal against verdicts of court martial to the officers and other ranks in courts in various parts of the country, the Government has deoided to set up an Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) which would also be empowered to deal with service matters. Once the AFT and its regional benches are fully functional, it is expected to reduce the burden of the courts significantly.

Decrease in insurgency activities in Kashmir

1094. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is considerable decrease in insurgency/extremist activities in Kashmir;

(b) if **so,** the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any demand for reduction of troop strength in Kashmir, and

(d) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Addition of multipurpose fighter aircrafts by Pakistan

†1095. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: SHRI MOTILAI VORA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistan is adding JF-17 multipurpose fighter aircraft in its Air Force fleet with the help of China and it shall get the above 8 aircrafts in the year, 2007 and 15 fighter aircrafts in the next year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Pakistan will make 400 JF-17 fighter aircrafts with the help of China;

(c) whether it is a fact that America also has agreed to the supply of F-16 aircrafts to Pakistan; and

(d) if so, what immediate step Government is taking for the security of the country in view of the crisis posed by Pakistan, China and Bangladesh?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The Government is aware that Pakistan has planned to develop and co-produce J-17 aircraft with the help of China for introduction in service.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government keeps a close watch on the developments taking place in the region and takes appropriate measures for the security of the country.

Purchase of C-130 Transport Helicopters

1096. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is going to purchase C-130 Transport Helicopters from U.S.A.;

(b) if so, the details of such deals for the last three years, what is the present status of such deals and for how many crores of U.S. dollars contracts have been signed; and

(c) for how much amount of money India has signed agreements with other countries; the details thereof including their name and amount of contract signed with them?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) A Letter of Request has been sent to the Government of USA regarding C-130 J aircraft. No contract for procurement has been signed.

Ill treatment of army personnel by officers

1097. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that army personnel are being humiliated and mistreated by their senior and superior officers, resulting in increase in suicidal cases;

(b) if so, the details of such cases including attempt to suicide in the last 5 years; and

(c) what steps the Ministry is taking to check this problem?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The number of cases of suicide and attempted suicide in the Army during last 5 years are as follows:-

Year	Suicide cases	Attempted
2002	80	10
2003	96	16
2004	100	14
2005	77	15
2006	120	34
2007 (upto 13.8.2007)	70	14

The causes of suicide in the Army include personal and family problems like marital discords, medical problems, depression, property related issues, perceived grievances etc.

2. The Government has taken a series of measures to check such incidents. Some of these measures are:-

(i) Better man management and prompt attendance of grievances at Unit level.

(ii) Improved accessibility of leaders and frequent interaction of junior leaders with the soldiers.

(iii) Strengthening time tested reporting and feedback system in the unit.

(iv) Junior Commissioned Officers and Non Commissioned Officers have been trained and deployed as psychological counsellors.

(v) The training capsules on relaxation techniques including Yoga and Pranayam have been introduced.

(vi) Leave policy has been liberalised permitting splitting of annual leave and casual leave. The troops will now be able to go to their home towns on leave thrice a year instead of twice a year earlier.

(vii) Rotation of units and individuals to minimize exposure to stress.

(viii) A helpline with toll free number has been established.

(ix) Arrangements have been made for identification and counselling of persons who are at higher combat stress by Regimental Medical Officers, Junior leaders and unit commanders.

(x) Counselling by religious teachers.

(xi) Psychological counselling by psychiatrists where required.

(xii) Grant of additional rail warrant to go home or Selected Place of Residence of family to all ranks of armed forces serving in field/counter insurgency/counter terrorist operational areas.

(xiii) Rationalisation of scheme for LTC for both officers and Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBORs) and removal of restriction of 1450 kms for availing All India LTC.

(xiv) Grant of High Altitude (Uncongenial Climate) (HAUC) allowance at enhanced rates to troops deployed in more difficult, hazardous isolated areas within the existing HAUC areas.

(xv) All Chief Ministers have been requested to make the civil administration more responsive to the problems of serving soldiers and their families.

(xvi) It has been decided to strengthen Rajya Sainik Boards and Zilla Sainik Boards in all States to take necessary follow up action on the grievances of soldiers in their home towns/villages.

(xvii) Under the Married Accommodation Project, houses are being built at different Stations to improve the availability of family accommodation.

MiG-21 crashes

1098. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of MiG-21 crashes during the past three years alongwith total loss in terms of life and property;

(b) the reasons for Government's failure to check the same; and

(c) the details of steps taken, if any, to prevent the increasing number of accidents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) A total number of 10 MiG-21 aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) have crashed during the last three financial years from 2004-2005 to 2007-2008 (till 13.8.2007). In these accidents a total number of 7 persons lost their lives.

Besides the loss of aircraft, compensation amounting to Rs. 40,49,853/- has also been paid on account of service personnel/civilian killed/injured and loss to the civil property in these accidents.

(b) and (c) Each aircraft accident in the IAF is investigated through a Court of Inquiry (Col) and remedial measures as per the recommendations of the Col are taken. Besides, a continuous and multi-faceted effort is always underway to enhance and upgrade flight safety. Measures to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgment and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued. Constant interaction with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), both indigenous and foreign, is also maintained to overcome the technical defects of aircraft. Besides, anti-bird measures are also undertaken.

Delivery of Scorpene submarines

1099. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the delivery schedule originally agreed for the delivery of Scorpene submarines;

(b) whether it is a fact that the delivery of such submarines could be deferred due to delay in sanctions from France;

(c) if so, whether Government has taken up the issue with the concerned authorities in the French Government and the manufacturers, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether Government has contradicted the media reports in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The first submarine is scheduled to be delivered in December, 2012 and thereafter one submarine each year till December, 2017.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Explosive in the material left by army at repair shop at Pokhran

†1100. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the repair work of defence vehicles and other material in Pokhran field firing range is carried out in the local market at Pokhran;

(b) whether some material for repair work was forcibly left by the armymen with Mr. Zahoor Mohammed, the blacksmith, at Pokhran on 28th January, 2006 inspite of Mr. Zahoor Mohammed's refusal;

(c) whether the officers of field firing range received any information regarding presence of some explosive in that material and death of Shri Zahoor Mohammed; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon and if not, the persons responsible in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) No, Sir. Army vehicles are routinely repaired in Army Workshops. Army convoys moving on National Highway passing through Pokhran carry repair and recovery detachments. However, single administrative vehicles breaking down on National Highways may be getting minor repairs done from the civil market.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of reply to (b) above.

Operational field firing ranges

1101. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of more than 90 Field Firing Ranges only 40 are now operational affecting the army's training programmes;

(b) whether the Ministry of Environment and Forests has barred opening up of any additional Field Firing Range due to perceived threat to flora and fauna of the region where such FFRs are to be located; and

(c) whether the army is now scouting for barren and rocky patches of land to locate additional FFRs which may not cause much environment damage?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) At present, 40 Field Firing Ranges (FFRs) are available to the Army for training and field firing. Availability of adequate number of FFRs is essential for the maintenance of the training standards in the Army.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(b) No, Sir. However, any proposal for the establishment of FFRs covering forest land requires the clearance of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(c) Additional FFRs, whenever required, would possibly be located in barren and rocky areas.

Permanent commission to non-technical officers of SSC cadre

1102. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether officers in SSC Cadre of Non-Tech Ground Duty Branches of the IAF had been given permanent commission since 1992; and

(b) if so, the total number of officers commissioned, year-wise and gender-wise?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Officers in SSC Cadre of Non-Technical Ground Duty Branches of the IAF, who met the eligibility criteria, have been given permanent commission since 1992. However, the grant of Permanent Commission to officers in SSC Cadre of Non Technical Ground Duty Branches of the IAF has been discontinued since 25th May, 2006.

The year T wise/Gender T wise detail of such officers of Non-Technical Branches is given below:-

Year	Women Officers	Male Officers
1992	-	45
1993	30	16
1994	28	11
1995	22	08
1996	51	08
1997	48	18
1998	43	26
1999	20	23
2000	31	21
2001	32	10
2002	30	41
2003	61	-
2004	51	-
2005	66	-
2006	50	08
TOTAL:	563	235

Defence Production Park in Kerala

1103. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE:
SHRI A.VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the competent authority of Kerala has proposed a few places to set up an exclusive defence production park in the state;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the decision taken on the above proposal;

(c) the details of defence component market to be set up, if any;

(d) the details of proposals submitted by various States for initiating defence component market if any, State-wise, category-wise, as on date; and

(e) the details of defence components market to be set up, if any, State-wise and category-wise, as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PRODUCTION (SHRI RAO DMDERJIT SINGH): (a) Minister of Industries, Government of Kerala has made a request asking various Defence Organisations to identify suitable projects for manufacturing in hi-tech areas, by setting up a Defence Production Park, in Kerala state.

(b) Presently there is no plan to set up a Defence Production Park in the country.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No proposal has been submitted by any state government to set up defence component market.

(e) Does not arise.

Joint Development of fighters with Moscow

1104. SHRI D.RAJA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have been negotiating with Moscow for joint development and joint investment in fifth generation fighters for Indian Air Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a high level team from US Defence Major Lockheed Martin met top officials of Indian Air Force to convey their willingness to transfer high technology weaponry to India including its 5th generation joint strike fighter F-35; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

SHRI MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Co-development of a Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft (FGFA) has been identified as an important area of co-operation between the Indian and Russian Government. Technical discussions to work out the details are in progress. Efforts are on for finalizing the draft Inter Governmental Agreement in this regard.

(c) US Government has not proposed to provide a fifth generation fighter F-35 aircraft to India.

(d) Does not arise.

JV with Israel for production of missiles

1105. SHRI D.RAJA:

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided on a joint venture with Israel for the production of missiles;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the general opinion in the country is against any military tie ups with Israel which will annoy the Muslim countries who share friendly relations with India; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has earlier entered into a contract with M/s Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) Israel to jointly develop a Long Range Surface to Air Missile (LRSAM) system for the Indian and Israeli Navy in January, 2006.

(c) and (d) The Government of India pursues bilateral cooperation with Israel in many fields, keeping in mind our national interests. Cooperation in the field of defence is one of the many dimensions of bilateral cooperation. This is based on our sole national interest and does not come in the way of the warm and mutually beneficial cooperation that we share with friendly Muslim countries.

Voluntary retirement by defence personnel

1106. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:. Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of personnel in Defence Services who have sought for voluntary retirement during the last three years, force-wise;

(b) whether any remedial measures have been taken in this regard;.

(c) if so, details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) The number of officers who sought discharge during the last three years, force-wise is as under:

Year	Army	Navy	Air Force
2004	435	119	249
2005	536	176	308
2006	811	259	230

The personnel below the rank of officers who have been granted voluntary retirement in the last three years, force-wise is as under:

Year	Army	Navy	Air Force
2004	15727	9	371
2005	10534	9	986
2006	8994	13	1222

The remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard are:-

(a) allowing time-bound promotions up to the rank of Colonels and equivalent.

(b) undertaking the married accommodation project for overcoming the shortage of family accommodation.

(c) creation/upgradation of posts upto the rank of Colonel and equivalent to hasten promotion.

(d) creation of the rank of Colonel (Time-Scale) and equivalent for time-bound promotion of superseded officers.

(e) professional courses for superannuating officers.

Increase in murder and suicide cases **in army**

†1107. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of murder and suicides are increasing in the Army;

(b) whether any enquiry had been conducted in 2007 in respect of promotion policy, officers behaviours and lack of facilities; and

(c) if not, by when the same will be conducted?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The number of suicide cases in the Army.is not significantly higher if compared with the national average and also with the Armies of some other countries. There have also been some incidents of fratricide in the Army. All such incidents of suicide and fratricide are viewed seriously and enquired into. Appropriate remedial measures are also taken.

(b) No enquiry has been conducted in 2007 in respect of promotion policy, officers' behaviour and lack of facilities. However, a study has been carried out by the Defence Institute of Psychological Research (DIPR) to identify factors, which lead to these incidents and suggest remedial measures. The study report has been submitted in February, 2007. A series of measures have been taken to improve service conditions and to attend to the issue of stress among the service personnel.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

Improvement in service conditions and amenities for the service personnel is an ongoing process.

(c) There is no such proposal.

Purchase of missiles from Israel

1108. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is purchasing a range of missiles from Israel;

(b) if so, the details thereof including budgetary allocations and spending on this count;

(c) whether it is a fact that the missiles that are being procured from Israel are affecting the development of indigenous missile systems; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Procurement of defence items including missiles is made from various indigenous as well as foreign sources including Israel in accordance with the well laid down defence procurement procedure. This is a continuous process undertaken for the modernisation of the Armed Forces to keep them in a state of readiness to meet any eventuality. Divulging details in this regard on the floor of the House would not be in the interest **of** national security.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Women officers in three defence services

1109. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women officers presently working in all the three defence services of India;

(b) how many suicidal cases occurred in the defence services, particularly women officers since last five years;

(c) what is the exact cause and circumstances which drove these women officer's to suicide in defence forces; and

(d) the details of steps taken by Government so far for preventing such incidents, particularly of women officers' suicide?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) The number of women officers presently working in the three Services is as follows:

Army	Air Force	Navy
945	739	236

The number of suicide cases in the Defence Services in the last five years is as follows:

Year	Army		Air Force		Navy	
	Total No. of cases	No. of women Officers committed suicide	Total No. of cases	No. of women officers committed suicide	Total No. of cases	No. of women officers committed suicide
2003	96	Nil	24	Nil	Nil	Nil
2004	100	Nil	13	Ml	04	Nil
2005	77	Nil	23	Nil	05	Nil
2006	120	02	24	Nil	01	Nil
2007 (Upto 5.8.2007)	70	01	11	Nil	01	Nil

There have been only 3 suicide cases of women officers in the last 5 years in the Defence Services. Every such incident is inquired into by a Court of Inquiry. The Courts of Inquiry conducted in the first two suicide cases of women officers during the year 2006, have revealed that factors like personal reasons, depression and psychological adjustment disorder etc. led to these incidents.

The measures adopted by the Government to prevent such incidents include:

(i) Increased formal and informal interaction between senior and junior officers, improved accessibility of leaders and frequent interaction of junior leaders with soldiers, better man management and prompt attendance to grievances;

(ii) Strengthening time tested reporting and feedback system in the unit;

(iii) Liberalized leave policy to attend to domestic problems;

(iv) Identification and counseling of persons who are at higher risk of combat stress by Regimental Medical Officers, junior leaders and unit commanders.

(v) Psychological counseling by psychiatrists where required.

(vi) Training capsules in relaxation exercise including yoga/meditation.

(vii) Post Army Medical Corps Junior Commissioned Officers as psychological counselors who will interact with the troops and alleviate their stress related problems.

Apart from the above, the following steps have been taken to address grievances specific to women officers.

(a) Women officers are treated at par with similarly placed male counterparts in terms of recruitment, training, tenure of service, promotions, pay and perks, leave, welfare measures etc.

(b) Commanders at all levels have been instructed to be more sensitive to the tasks being assigned to the lady officers with special focus on (i) providing an honourable working environment (ii) being sensitive to the constraints faced by lady officers in performing certain specified tasks and (iii) keeping in mind displayed aptitudes while assigning non-core duties.

(c) Women officers are provided with separate living accommodation in the Officers Mess.

(d) Adequate grievance redressal mechanism has been put in place to address complaints of sexual harassment and other complaints of lady officers.

(e) Women officers are free to approach their Commanding Officers/ Supervisors at any time to discuss their personal/official problems and seek immediate assistance.

Terrorists hiding in Bangladesh

1110. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officials of Bangladesh Government who participated in the 2-day Indo-Bangladesh Home Secretary level meeting in New Delhi on the 3rd August, 2007 confirmed that the key operatives of outlawed ULFA outfit have been hiding in Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details of the confirmation made by Bangladesh officials indicating whether any promise about apprehending them and externing to India made;

(c) whether any concrete joint action plan has been drawn with Bangladesh for flushing out the terrorists and insurgents engaged in anti-India activities, particularly in the North-Eastern India, using the neighbouring territory as hide-outs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADH1KA SELVI): (a) During talks held on 2-3 August, 2007, in response to the security concerns raised by Indian side, the Bangladesh side reiterated its principled position that it does not and would not allow its territory to be used by elements inimical to the interests of India.

(b) Both sides agreed to initiate swift action on information received about groups and elements and other fugitives from the law of either country taking shelter in the ether country.

(c) and (d) Both sides agreed with the necessity of real time exchange of actionable information between the security agencies of the two countries, in addition to the existing mechanisms of information sharing between the BSF and BDR. The modalities of designation of nodal points would be decided separately by mutual consultations.

No action on recommendations of Srikrishna Commission

1111. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:
SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no action has been taken either by then Maharashtra State Government or the Central Government on the recommendations of the Srikrishna Commission which enquired into the Mumbai riots of 1993 though the Commission submitted its report nine years ago; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Union Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Maharashtra Government under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 set up the Commission of Inquiry under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Justice B.N.Srikrishna on 25.1.1993 to inquire into the Mumbai riots of 1992-93. The Commission submitted its report on 16.2.1998 and the Maharashtra Government, which is the appropriate Government under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952, tabled Commission's report alongwith the Action Taken Report in both the Houses of State Legislature on 6.8.1998, in terms of Section 3(4) of the aforesaid Act.

Empowering Central Government to deploy military troops

1112. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to empower the Central Government to deploy military troops in any part of the country;

(b) if so, the considerations that have necessitated this empowerment; and

(c) What are the existing provisions in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Suicide cases in Jammu and Kashmir

1113. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in first eleven days of June 2007, 22 young persons, male and female, committed suicide and over 100 persons attempted suicide in J and K;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent such tendencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) (a) and (b) As intimated by the State Government

of Jammu and Kashmir, male and femmale both, belonging to different age groups have been reported to have committed suicide due to domestic/financial compulsions, strained relations and failure in examinations. In first 11 days of June 2007, 7 persons (3 male, 4 female) committed suicide and 4 persons (1 male, 3 female) attempted suicide. In these incidents, cases have been registered.

(c) Awareness is being spread that this act is against religious preachings and abhorred by society. Many NGOs are also engaged in educating youth to desist from such an act.

The intellectuals, doctors, students and respectable persons organize seminars and symposiums to discuss suicide, highlight the factors responsible and educate the people against this malice.

Preventing infiltration through Indo-Bangladesh Border

†1114. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government, in association with the Government of Bangladesh, are formulating any programme to prevent illegal infiltration on the Indo-Bangladesh border; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) and (b) The Government of India has been taking up the issue of illegal infiltration of Bangladeshis at various bilateral forums with Government of Bangladesh. The issue has featured at Regular meetings of Directors General of BSF with Bangladesh Rifles, Joint Working Group and Home Secretary Level and Foreign Secretary Level Talks. This issue has also been taken up with Government of Bangladesh at the political level in addition to the existing institutional framework.

Prisoners died in Tihar jail

†1115. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of prisoners died in Tihar jail Delhi in the years 2006 and 2007 respectively and also the number of prisoners who died unnatural death;

(b) the number of cases wherein the jail authorities have been found to be guilty for the deaths of prisoners who died unnatural death; and

(c) the action being taken by Government against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) During the year 2006, 22 prisoners died in Tihar Jail out of which one death was due to suicide. In the year 2007 (upto 17.8.2007), 22 prisoners died out of which one was due to suicide.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(b) and (c) Inquest was conducted by Metropolitan Magistrate/Sub Divisional Magistrate in each case and inquest reports in respect of the two unnatural deaths are awaited.

Death of migrant labourers in North-East

†1116. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Hindi speaking migrant labourers who died in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and other North-Eastern States;

(b) the progress made in the action taken by Army Jawans, Assam Rifles and Assam-Arunachal Police to wipe out the militant outfits there; and

(c) the extent of success achieved in the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) During the current year in Assam, ULFA Under Grounds (UGs) had killed 61 Hindi speaking persons mostly labourers and pettyvendors in January, 2007 and 10 such persons in May, 2007. In the latest spree of violence against this vulnerable section, combined groups of United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) and Karbi Longri N.C. Hills Liberation Front (KLNLF), UGs have killed 30 persons (28 Hindi speaking) between 8-12 August, 2007 in Karbi Anglong district. No report of killing of such persons has been received from other North Eastern States.

(b) Government of Assam has strengthened the security in the State in general and Karbi Anglong district in particular. Intensive patrolling, and search and cordon operations are continuing.

(c) During the current year till 31st July, 2007, 173 ULFA and 10 KLNLF UGs have been neutralized.

Officials and leaders indicted by Srikrishna Commission

1117. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the report of Srikrishna Commission which was appointed to probe into the riots in Mumbai, has not been implemented as yet despite assurance given by Government several times;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the names of officials and leaders who have been indicted by the Srikrishna Commission in its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) The Maharashtra Government has informed that the following action has been taken on the Srikrishna Commission Report:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

• The Maharashtra Government tabled the Commission's report dated 16.2.1998 and Action Taken Report in both the Houses of State Legislature on 6.8.1998, in terms of Section 3(4) of the aforesaid Act.

The State Government thereafter also appointed a Special Task Force on 31.8.2000 and pursuant to the same, further action is being taken by the State Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) According to the State Government, the Commission has indicted 31 officials, whose names are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Names and designation of the officials indicted by the Srikrishna Commission

1. Shri Vasant Madhukar More, Police Sub Inspector
2. Shri Sahebrao Hari Jadhav, Assistant Police Inspector
3. Shri Suresh Pandurang Ithape, Police Constable 3181
4. Shri Shivaji Govindrao Kashid, Police Naik 985
5. Shri Hanumant Pandurang Chavan, Police Naik 2238
6. Shri Gopichand S. Borase, Head Constable 3649
7. Shri Ashok Naik, Police Constable 23960
8. Shri Rajaram K. Bhoir, Police Constable
9. Shri U.V. Patankar, Sr. Police Inspector
10. Shri PS. Wahule, Police Inspector
11. Shri Ram Desai, Police Sub Inspector
12. Shri R.D. Tyagi, Jt. Commissioner of Police
13. Shri A.T.Deshmukh, Assistant Police Inspector
14. Shri B.T. Lahane, Police Inspector
15. Shri Sanjay Laxman Gawade, Police Constable
16. Shri A.N. Kamat, Assistant Police Inspector
17. Shri Vidhyadhar Raghunath Shelar, Police Inspector
18. Shri Subhash Salvi, Police Inspector
19. Shri V.K.More, Police Sub Inspector
20. Shri Datta S.Dhawale, Police Inspector
21. Shri Sanjay Bhosale, Police Constable
22. Shri N.K. Kapse, Police Sub Inspector
23. Shri B.B. Shinge, Police Inspector

24. Shri Shivgonda Patil, Police Sub Inspector

25. Shri A.M. Ghadi, Police Constable

26. Shri A.Y. Kamble, Police Constable

27. Shri P.S. Dukre, Police Constable

28. Shri D.R. Phadtare, Police Constable

29. Shri S.P. Patil, Police Constable

30. Shri B.K.Gaikwad, Police Constable

31. Shri S.Patade, Police Constable 7783.

Bringing intelligence agencies under Parliamentary oversight

1118. SHRI DARA SINGH:

SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to bring
under Parliamentary oversight our Intelligence agencies - IB, RAW etc. as is being
done in other democratic countries' like the US, UK and Australia;

(b) whether India has the distinction of being the lone exception where intelligence agencies are not subject to the external checks though our defence forces are "subject to statutory audit and Parliamentary review"; and

(c) if so, what concrete measures have so far been taken by Government to bring
about structural and procedural reforms in the country's intelligence outfits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) It is not in National interest to give more details.

Financial assistance to rain affected areas of Kerala

1119. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the loss of human lives and extensive damage to crops and property in Kerala due to heavy rains; and

(b) if so, the details of the damages caused by rains and financial assistance provided by the Union Government for relief measures in the rain affected areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. As per the information received from the Government of Kerala, based on their preliminary assessment, 239 human lives were lost, 2811 livestock perished, 35,096 ha. cropped area was affected, 2003 houses were fully and 48780 houses were partially damaged in 14 districts of the State due to heavy rains/floods during 2007.

The State of Kerala has been allocated an amount of Rs. 94.26 crore in Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for the year 2007-08 consisting of Rs. 70.70 crore as Central contribution and Rs. 23.56 crore as State Contribution. The 1st instalment of Central share of CRF amounting to Rs. 35.35 crore has been released to the State Government on 26th June, 2007. Keeping in view the severity of the situation, the Government of India has released the 2nd instalment of Central share of CRF amounting to Rs. 35.35 crore, in advance, on 18th July, 2007. In addition, Rs. 50.00 crore has also been released by the Government of India to the State Government on 7th August, 2007 on an 'on account' basis from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) for carrying out relief operations in the areas affected by heavy rains/ floods during 2007.

Delay in approval for Gujarat Control of Organised Crime Bill, 2003

1120. SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL:
SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gujarat Control of Organised Crime Bill, 2003 is still awaiting the approval of Government; and

(b) if so, the hurdlles coming in the way for approval of this Bill, whereas the similar Bills of other States have already been approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Legislations reserved for the consideration of the President are examined by the Government of India from three angles *viz.,* (a) conflict to any Central law, (b) deviation from National or Central Policy, and (c) legal and Constitutional validity. In the case of Gujarat Control of Organised Crime Bill, 2003 there are policy and legal issues which need to be sorted out and no time-frame can be fixed for achieving the same.

Requested by Orissa Government for waiving off 90 crores

1121. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cash-strapped Orissa Government has requested the Centre for waiving Rs. 90 crores it owes to them for engaging Central paramilitary forces to fight Maoists, because of its poor financial health;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the status of the case; and

(c) what is the time-frame by which the approval of the Centre would be conveyed to the State in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) Government of India has exempted the cost of deployment of specified battalions of Central Para Military Forces, deployed

on anti-naxalite duty, in naxal affected States, including Orissa, for a period of three years, with effect from 1st July, 2004.

The State Government of Orissa has recently requested for waiver of about Rs. 90 crore, pertaining to the cost of deployment of some battalions of Central Para Military Forces with effect from 1st April, 2002.

While all efforts will be made to take an expeditious decision on the request of Government of Orissa, no time-frame can be specified for the same.

Increase in suicide rate among Kashmiri youths

†1122. SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is constant increase in the number of young boys and girls who try to commit suicide in Kashmir;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor as per Government information;

(c) whether Government have figures in this respect;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, whether Government propose to get information in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (e) As intimated by the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir, in year, 2006 and 2005, 140 and 127 cases of suicide, respectively, were reported. From January 2007 till August 18, 110 cases of suicide by young girls and boys have been reported. The reasons, therefore, are domestic/ financial compulsions, strained relations, failure in examinations and dowry demands.

Home Secretary level talks between India and Bangladesh

1123. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR:
SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks between India and Bangladesh at Home Secretary level were recently held in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the nature of discussions held and the decisions taken thereon;

(c) the action taken by two Governments to implement them; and

(d) by when next round of similar talks is expected to be held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) Home'Secretary level talks between India and Bangladesh were held on 2-3 August 2007 at New Delhi.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(b) and (c) In the said meeting, issues relating to security, border management and enhanced cooperation were discussed. Among other issues, important issues on which there was agreement between the two Governments include necessity of real time exchange of actionable information between the security agencies and designation of nodal points for this purpose, action on information received about groups and elements and other fugitive from the law of either country taking shelter in the other country and revival of the mechanism of Joint Working Group at the level of the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs.

(d) The next round of Home Secretary level talks will be held in Dhaka and dates for the same will be decided through diplomatic channels.

Suicide and fratricide among members of para-military forces

1124. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of suicide and fratricide in the para-military forces have been increasing;

(b) year-wise details thereof during the last three years till 31 July, 2007;

(c) whether their rising mental/physical stress are attributable to their involvement in tackling terrorism and insurgency;

(d) if so, the steps taken for stress management in the forces;

(e) the details of Government and Non-Government agencies engaged, infrastructure created/dedicated and parameters adopted to meet the enhanced need of stress management; and

(f) the procedures followed in identification and selection of Non-Government agencies for stress management?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) There is no definite trend of increase in cases of suicides and fratricide in the Central Police Forces.

(b) Year-wise details of incidents of suicide and fratricide in Central Police Forces during the last three years till 31st July, 2007 are as under:

Year of incident	Incidents of killing/fratricide	Incidents of suicide	Total
2004	26	79	105
2005	14.	85	99
2006	29	101	130
2007 upto 31.7.07	-	67	67

(c) Prolonged deployment in insurgency or militancy affected areas is one of the factors responsible for mental and physical stress.

(d) The Government has enhanced the entitlement of family accommodation from 14% to 25% with enhanced allocations for construction of houses. Other measures such as, counseling, granting leave frequently, classes of yoga and meditation have also been taken to reduced stress amongst CPF personnel.

(e) and (f) Well known organizations in the field of yoga and meditation and other stress relieving techniques, like Patanjali Yog Peeth, Mata Amritanandamayi Math, Vyakti Vikas Kendra, etc. have been engaged to organize stress relieving courses amongst the Force personnel.

Unified command to guard coasts

1125. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of the proposed setting up of unified command to guard our coasts, etc.;

(b) whether any negotiations have been held with the Navy and Coast Guard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) There is no proposal to set up a unified command to guard our coasts.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Naxalite/terrorist activities in States

†1126. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the naxalite/terrorist activities/incidents in the different States and parts of the country during the last three years, together with the latest position thereof, State wise/region-wise;

(b) the details of the total number of common masses and also the jawans of security forces killed in such activities/incidents, along-with the total number of naxalites/terrorists killed therein, State-wise/region-wise; and

(c) the measures Government have taken so far to prevent the same and the policy adopted to have further check on it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS. (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) State-wise number of incidents and deaths related to Left Wing Extremist violence are given in the Statement *(See* below).

(c) The Central Government is coordinating and supplementing the efforts and resources of the State Governments in combating Left Wing Extremist violence. 33

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

Battalions of Central Para Military Forces are currently deployed on anti-naxalite duties for assisting the State Police Forces, 29 India Reserve Battalions have been sanctioned to different States, assistance for modem weaponry, latest communication equipment, mobility and other infrastructure is being provided, security related expenditure is also being reimbursed by the Central Government and training needs of State Police Forces are being supplemented through the Central Para Military Forces and the Bureau of Police Research & Development.

However, law and order being a State subject under the scheme of the Constitution, responsibility for effective action lies with State Governments. In particular, they need to expeditiously fill up existing vacancies in their Police Forces, optimally utilize the assistance for modernizing and equipping them and raise the India Reserve Battalions sanctioned by the Central Government. The State Governments also need to simultaneously ensure effective implementation of a large number of schemes related to development to improve conditions in the affected areas.

Statement

State-wise number of Incidents and Deaths related to Left Wing Extremist Violence

States	Number of Incidents			
	2004	2005	2006	2007 (up to 14.8.2007)
Andhra Pradesh	310	535	183	89
Bihar	323	186	107	87
Chhattisgarh	352	385	715	406
Jharkhand	379	312	310	283
Madhya Pradesh	13	20	6	8
Maharashtra	84	94	98	67
Orissa	35	42	44	52
Uttar Pradesh	15	10	11	4
West Bengal	11	14	23	16
Kerala	5	-	2	4
Karnataka	6	8	10	6
Haryana	-	2	-	
TOTAL:	1533	1608	1509	1022

State	Number of naxalites killed			
	2004	2005	2006	2007 (up to 14.8.2007)
Andhra Pradesh	47	161	133	25
Bihar	1	11	6	2
Chhattisgarh	14	32	74	54
Jharkhand	18	7	20	9
Maharashtra	2	3	19	4
Uttar Pradesh	-	4	4	1
Madhya Pradesh	1	-	-	-
West Bengal	1	-	2	-
Orissa	-	3	14	6
Karnataka	-	4	-	2
TOTAL:	84	225	272	103

State	Number of civilians killed			
	2004	2005	2006	2007 (up to 14.8.2007)
Andhra Pradesh	68	186	37	24
Bihar	166	72	40	21
Chhattisgarh	75	121	304	128
Jharkhand	128	92	81	72
Maharashtra	9	29	39	13
Uttar Pradesh	9	I	5	2
Madhya Pradesh	4	2	1	2
West Bengal	2	6	9	2
Orissa	4	13	5	13
Karnataka	1	2	-	4
TOTAL:	466	524	521	281

State	Number of policemen killed			
	2004	2005	2006	(up 2007 to 14.8.2007)
Andhra Pradesh	6	22	10	2
Bihar	5	24	5	18
Chhattisgarh	8	47	84	134
Jharkhand	41	27	43	7
Maharashtra	6	24	3	1
Uttar Pradesh	17	-	-	
Madhya Pradesh .		1	-	
West Bengal	13	1	8	-
Orissa	4	1	4	2
Karnataka	-	6	-	1
TOTAL:	100	153	157	165

Steps to end violence in Dantewara district of Chhattisgarh

1127. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to end violence in the Dantewara district of Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether there is any move to bring the naxalites to the table for talks; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) Central Government is supplementing and coordinating the efforts and resources of State Governments through a variety of measures. 33 Battalions of Central Para Military Forces are deployed on anti-naxalite duties for assisting State Police Forces, with 13 in Chhattisgarh. 29 India Reserve Battalions have been sanctioned to different States, with 4 to Chhattisgarh. Assistance for modern weaponry, latest communication equipment, mobility and other infrastructure is being provided; in 2006-2007, a special allocation of Rs. 24.75 crore was made for Chhattisgarh over and above its normal allocation. Security related expenditure is being reimbursed by the Central Government. Services of a helicopter have also been provided to Chhattisgarh.

The States have also been urged to expeditiously fill up. existing vacancies in their Police Forces, raise the India Reserve battalions sanctioned by the Central

Government and optimally utilize the Central forces and the Central assistance for modernization of State Police Forces made available to them. In addition, the State Governments have also been urged to ensure effective implementation of a large number of development Schemes to improve the conditions in the affected areas.

Law and order being a State subject, dealing with the various issues related to naxalite violence in a State lies in the domain of the concerned State Government.

Attack on tourists in Jammu and Kashmir

†1128. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of attacks on domestic and foreign tourists by militants or any other outfits on these tourists during last two years;

(b) the number of travellers/tourists injured and killed in these attacks;

(c) the number of militants or suspicious persons nabbed or killed by police/army in the counter attacks ;and

(d) whether Government have chalked out any specific strategy as a precautionary measure for the safety of the tourists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) As per the report of the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir, there was no terrorist attack on tourists in 2005. However, in 2006, there were 12 attacks on tourists in the Valley in which 15 tourists were killed and 87 injured. In 2007 till July, two attacks have been directed towards tourists in which 03 tourists were killed and 27 injured.

(c) A total of 11 terrorists, involved in such attacks were arrested during 2006.

(d) The State Government and Security Forces, in an endeavour to make the security environment progressively safer for tourists, have taken the following steps:

(i) A separate tourist police and enforcement wing at Srinagar/Jammu and other tourist places exist which look after and protect the interests of the tourists in the State. The tourist police are empowered to take cognizance in cases of cheating and harassment.

(ii) Adequate deployment of Security Forces/State Police is being ensured around tourist spots and also roads leading to such places. Regular patrolling and anti-sabotage checks are being undertaken in and around tourist places and roads leading there.

(iii) A separate security arrangement, operational on a permanent basis exists at the Shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi at Katra and. its proximity.

Union Government provides necessary support to the State Government on request and continuously monitors the security situation.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

Number of women in central forces

†1129. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of women in Central Forces at present;

(b) whether Government intend to increase the number of women in Central forces; and

(c) if so, what would be the number of increase and by when the same would be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Percentage of women in Central Industrial Security Force is 3.15 and in Central Reserve Police Force it is 1.67. In the Border Guarding Forces namely Assam Rifles, Border Security Force, Indo Tibetan Border Police and Sashstra Seema Bal, the representation is less than 1%.

(b) and (c) The strength of women will be increased gradually taking into account the constraints on their deployment, postings, etc.

Increasing consumption of narcotic drugs in Punjab and Haryana

1130. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that consumption of narcotic drugs is increasing in Punjab and Haryana;

(b) whether any survey has been made to assess the number of youth who are victim of drug abuse in these States;

(c) if so, how many raids were conducted by the concerned department since January, 2007, quantities of the psychotropic drugs seized and the number of smuggler arrested; and

(d) whether quantum of these discoveries was more during same period of the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) and (b) No state specific survey in this regard has been done.

(c) and (d) No separate data on the raids conducted by various drug law enforcement agencies is reported to the Narcotics Control Bureau. Details regarding the quantity of major drugs seized, the number of cases and the number of persons arrested in connection with drug trafficking during the period January to June, 2007 and January to June 2006, in the states of Punjab and Haryana, as reported to the Narcotics Control Bureau are as under:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

January to June, 2007

(Qty. in Kg.) (Provisional)

State	Heroin			Hashish			Opium			Ganja		
	Qty	Cases	Persons Arrested	Qty.	Cases	'Persons	Qty	Cases	Persons Arrested	Qty.	Cases	Persons Arrested
Punjab	122	525	586	91	50	55	166	177	207	205	49	0
Haryana	14	39	55	138	138	165	47	56	83	114	25	21

January to June, 2006 (Qty. in Kg.)

State	Heroin			Hashish			Opiu			Ganja		
	Qty.	Cases Arreste	Persons	Qty.	Cases I	Persons	Qty.	Cases Arrest	Persons	Qty.	Cases Arreste	Persons
Punjab	51	579	645	61	49	49	242	274	318	220	49	0
Haryana	2	53	59	89	87	89	45	61	79	134	33	42

Naxal violence

1131. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two-day (26-27 June, 2007) economic blockade was called by Naxals in six States and Jharkhand Bandh on 1st, August, 2007;

(b) if so, its objectives, its repercussions, loss to property, life and infrastructure;

(c) whether Naxals are disrupting public/private intfastructure plants and have become biggest challenge for internal security in mineral-rich States;

(d) what is overall scenario like persons (PoJice-civilians) killed/injured in Naxal violence in country/States, districts/police stations affected during last three years and current year; and

(e) what steps Government have taken to control the menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the economic blockade on 26-27 June, 2007, there were about 20 incidents, with damage to Government property. In the bandh on 1st August, 2007, there were about 7 incidents, with damage to Government property and death of 1 civilian.

(c) The naxalites have been observed to be targeting certain types of Government buildings and infrastructure pertaining to road and rail communications and, in some cases in recent months, power transmission facilities. Action is being taken continuously by the State Governments to minimize such possibilities and to strengthen related security arrangements.

(d) Details are given in the enclosed Statement *(See* below).

(e) Law and order is a State subject. The Central Government is supplementing and coordinating the efforts and resources of the State Governments through a variety of measures, including deployment of 33 battalions of Central Para Military Forces that work under the command of the concerned State Governments, sanctioning of 29 India Reserve battalions, strengthening of the local Police and Intelligence agencies through the Scheme for Modernisation of State Police Forces, financial assistance through the Scheme of Security Related Expenditure, supplementing the training needs of State Police Forces, sharing of Intelligence and bringing about inter-State coordination.

The States have also been urged to expeditiously fill up existing vacancies in their Police Forces, raise the India Reserve battalions sanctioned by the Central Government and optimally utilize the Central forces and the Central assistance for modernization of State Police Forces made available to them. In addition, the State Governments have also been urged to ensure effective implementation of a large number of development Schemes to improve the conditions in the affected areas.

Statement

Number of civilians and policement killed in Left Wing Extremist Violence

State	2004		2005		2006		2007 (up to 14.08.07)	
	Civilians Killed	Policemen Killed	Civilians Killed	Policemen Killed	Civilians Killed	Policemen Killed	Civilians Killed	Policemen Killed
Andhra Pradesh	68	6	186	22	37	10	24	2
Bihar	166	5	72	24	40	5	21	18
Jharkhand	128	41	92	27	81	43	72	7
Chhattisgarh	75	8	121	47	304	84	128	134
Madhya Pradesh	4	0	2	1	1	0	2	0
Maharashtra	9	6	29	24	39	3	13	1
Orissa	4	4	13	1	5	4	13	2
Uttar Pradesh	9	17	1	0	5	0	2	0
West Bengal	2	13	6	1	9	8	2	0
Karnataka	1	0	2	6	0	0	4	1
TOTAL:	466	100	524	153	521	157	281	165

Number of Police Stations from where violence has been reported

State	2004	2005	2006	2007 (up to 14.08.07)
Andhra Pradesh	149	188	93	46
Bihar	106	80	69	51
Jharkhand	101	79	85	75
Chhattisgarh	68	66	81	67
Madhya Pradesh	4	4	4	5
Maharashtra	18	10	14	12
Orissa	15	13	22	14
Uttar Pradesh	7	5	7	3
West Bengal	6	7	12	6
Karnataka	4	6	6	3
Kerala	4	0	2	2
Haryana	0	2	0	0
TOTAL:	482	460	395	284

Trafficking of women and children

†ll32. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether inspite of all the laws, Government have not achieved desired success in checking the trafficking of women and children in the country;

(b) the reasons therefor and the other concrete steps being taken by Government to stop this crime; and

(c) the number of cases of this crime registered in the last three years and the number of cases, out of them wherein punishment has been awarded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) and (b) "Police" and "Public Order" are state subjects, and the State Governments are primarily responsible for prevention and combating of crime of human trafficking. However, the Union Government is taking several measures, in concert with the State Government for prevention and control of crime of trafficking as well as measures for rehabilitation of victims. The Union Government has advised all the State Governments to deal with the crime of trafficking in a holistic manner and to evolve an effective and comprehensive strategy encompassing rescue, relief and rehabilitation of victims besides taking deterrent action against the law violators. The Ministry of Home Affairs has set up

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

a Nodal Cell to coordinate matters relating to trafficking in human beings between the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and other related Ministries etc. and organizing co-ordination meetings to review and sensitize Police Officers of the States/Union Territories on the subject.

(c) A statement showing the number of cases registered and convicted under Immoral Trafficking (prevention) Act, 1956, Procuration of Minor Girls, Sec. 366 IPC, Selling of Girls for Prostitution, Sec. 372 IPC, and Buying of Girls for Prostitution, Sec. 373 IPC during the years 2003, 2004, and 2005 is enclosed.

Statement

The number of cases registered and convicted under Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act, 1956, Procuration of Minor Girls, Sec.366-A IPC, Selling of Girls for Prostitution, Sec.372 IPC, and Buying of Girls for Prostitution, Sec. 373 IPC during the years 2003, 2004 and 2005.

Year	Cases Registered	Cases Convicted
Under Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act 1956		
2003	5510	4057
2004	5748	4368
2005	5908	4456
Under Procuration of Minor Girls, Sec.366-A IPC,		
2003	171	15
2004	205	18
2005	145	16
Under Selling of Girls for Prostitution, Sec.372 IPC,		
2003	36	0
2004	19	0
2005	50	8
Under Buying of Girls for Prostitution, Sec. 373 IPC		
2003	24	1
2004	21	1
2005	28	0

Infiltration of terrorists from Bangladesh

1133. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an increase in the infiltration of terrorists from Bangladesh territory;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Central Government to tackle the problems of cross-border terrorists in Indian territory; and

(c) the areas in Bangladesh which have terrorist training camps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) In some of the recent terrorist incidents in some parts of the country, the involvement of terrorist elements from Bangladesh or use of its territory by some terrorist groups has come to notice.

(b) The Government remains firmly committed to countering the challenge posed by terrorism. Towards this end, a multi-pronged strategy is being pursued in close conjunction with the State Governments, which involves measures to check infiltration from across the borders, deployment of Central Security Forces in areas prone to terrorist violence, continuous vigilance and strengthening of security arrangements in vulnerable areas and around vital installations, sharing of intelligence, strengthening of State Police Forces and up-gradation of their capabilities to deal with terrorist activities through the schemes of Police Modernization and raising of India Reserve battalions, etc. Efforts are also being made to strengthen bilateral and multi-lateral cooperation including with Bangladesh with the aim of combating terrorism through arrangements for Mutual Legal Assistance, Extradition Treaties, exchange of information and intelligence, etc.

(c) There are reports about Camps of some Indian Insurgent groups in some parts of Bangladesh. This has also been shared with the Bangladesh authorities at various levels, including the recent Home Secretary Level Talks held on 2-3 August, 2007. It would not be appropriate to disclose further information in this regard in public interest.

Water-logging in Delhi after heavy rains

1134. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after heavy rains on 1st August, 2007 there was serious
water-logging at various places in Delhi on 2nd August, 2007, thereby seriously disrupting road traffic in the city;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to get the whole matter investigated as to why such things are happening year after year; and .

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKASELVI): Yes, Sir.

(b) The intensity of rainfall on 1st and 2nd August, 2007 was much more than normal.

Therefore, the drains were overflowing and water got accumulated.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has decided to prepare a Master Plan to improve drainage system which is likely to alleviate the water logging problems.

Strategy to combat maoist problem

1135. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether spate of meetings and discussions by officials of Central and State Governments have till now failed to produce a unified strategy to combat Maoist problem in the country;

(b) whether lack of agreement on a unified model to contain and control the problems has proved to be a great obstacle to achieve much needed co-ordination among the affected States;

(c) whether the sharp differences among the affected, once again cropped up at the meeting of the task force on anti-Maoists. operations on April 13; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to meet the situation and check anti-Maoists activities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) Law and order being a State subject, it is ultimately for the State Governments to be in the forefront of the efforts to contain Left Wing Extremism. It is well known that when the naxalites are under pressure in one State, they escape to neighbouring States. Therefore, inter-State coordination is an important and continuous part of the effort to curb them. Towards this end State Governments share intelligence and conduct joint operations. Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) have also been brought into effect for coordinated inter-State action. At the Central level, a Task Force under Special Secretary (Internal Security), consisting of officers of Intelligence agencies, Central Para Military Forces and concerned State Police Forces, has also been set up to deliberate upon the various steps needed to deal with the activities of naxalites and to bring about co-ordination between authorities of different States as may be necessary.

In the Task Force meeting on 13 April 2007, operational and coordination matters were deliberated upon in normal course.

(d) The Central Government is supplementing and coordinating the efforts and resources of the State Governments through a variety of measures, including deployment of 33 battalions of Central Para Military Forces that work under the command of the concerned State Governments.

The States have also been urged to expeditiously fill up existing vacancies in their Police Forces, raise the India Reserve battalions sanctioned by the Central Government and optimally utilize the Central forces and the Central assistance for modernization of State Police Forces made available to them. In addition, the State Governments have also been urged to ensure effective implementation of a large number of Development Schemes to improve the conditions in the affected areas.

Home Secretary dialogue between India and Pakistan

1136. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan Home Secretary level talks were held in July, 2007 to further continue the dialogue between the two countries and India handed over

a list of 38 criminals to Pakistan asking for their deportation which includes the name of India's most wanted terrorist Dawood Ibrahim;

(b) if so, whether infiltration from across the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir and matters relating to counter terrorism and drug trafficking also were discussed;

(c) if so, what was the outcome of the talks held; and

(d) to what extent both India and Pakistan have agreed on number of issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRJ SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Fourth Round of Home Secretary Level Talks with Pakistan on Terrorism and Drug Trafficking were held in New Delhi on 3-4 July, 2007, as a part of the continuing composite dialogue between the two countries. During the Talks, a list of fugitives from Indian laws including Dawood Ibrahim was handed over to the Pakistani side. Further, the Indian side highlighted concerns relating to terrorism and infiltration from across the border in J&K and the continuing terrorist infrastructure and fugitives from Indian laws in Pakistan/PoK, and underlined the need for effective and significant steps against the terrorist elements.

(c) and (d) During the Talks, it was agreed to take effective and sustained action against the terrorist activities. There was an agreement that the nodal points in the Central Bureau of Investigation of India and Federal Investigation Agency of Pakistan would meet periodically to facilitate, early disposal of INTERPOL related cases. It was also agreed that the two drug control agencies would enhance mutual operational cooperation to control drug trafficking and that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two agencies would be signed at the earliest possible. Both sides also decided to release the fishermen in each other's custody, and prisoners who have completed their sentences and whose nationality has been verified by the other side. Further, the two sides agreed on the draft Consular Access Agreement and considerable progress was also made with regard to the draft Visa Agreement.

Unprofessional conduct of CISF personnel at airports

1137. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that air passengers face frequently the unprofessional conduct of CISF personnel at various points;

(b) whether it is a fact that senior officers are never visible at airports to carefully monitor CISF personnel;

(c) whether CCTVs will be installed at point of interaction between CISF personnel and the public;

(d) whether Government propose to improve their conduct; and

(e) the steps proposed to install a governance registration system at all airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) A very few cases of such nature have been reported.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) CCTVs have already been installed at many places.

(d) and (e) Besides imparting training for good/helpful conduct to the CISF personnel, strict disciplinary action is also taken in cases of default.

CBI raids on officials of **MCD**

1138. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI raided homes of officers belonging to Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and builders, exposing nexus between the two in allowing illegal constructions in Delhi;

(b) if so, the result of the raid; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADH1KA SELVI): (a) and (b) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had conducted searches at the residential premises of certain officials of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and builders. In the searches, the Bureau seized incriminating documents regarding their involvement in illegal constructions.

(c) Action is taken against the guilty after completion of investigation as per law.

Atrocities on Scheduled Castes/Tribes

1139. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cases registered with the Police against atrocities on Scheduled Castes/Tribes in the past three years;

(b) what is the number of cases in which action was taken and closed;

(c) what is the status of the pending cases; and

(d) whether there is any repetition of such atrocities in the same place, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) As per statistics compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau a total of 26252, 26887 and 26127 cases of crimes committed against Scheduled Castes (SCs) and 5889, 5535 and 5713 cases of crimes committed against Scheduled Tribes (STs) were reported in the country during 2003 to 2005 respectively.

(b) and (c) Statements containing number of cases reported, charge-sheeted, trial completed, convicted, acquitted and cases pending for offences committed against SCs and STs during 2003 to 2005 are placed at Statement-I and II respectively *{See* below).

(d) The Government has no such information.

Statement-I

Cases registered(CR), cases chargesheeted(CS), trial cimplited, cases convicted(CV), cases acquitted(AQ) and cases pending at year end(CP) for crimes against SCs during 2003-05

SI. No.	State/UTs	2003						2004						2005					
		CR	CS	TC	cv	AQ	CP	CR	CS	TC	CV	AQ	CP	CR	CS	TC	CV	AQ	CP
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3559	1964	1936	319	1617	1678	3255	1774	2022	287	1735	2312	3117	2340	1710	261		2005
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0		0
3.	Assam	67	41	32	5	27	20	20	25	26	3	23	6	282	76	39	13		141
4.	Bihar	1747	1249	533	151	382	1336	2646	1290	698	133	565	2340	1824	1415	500	153		2428
5.	Chhattisgarh	709	666	447	203	244	124	698	665	817	269	548	22	454	419	441	140		27
6.	Goa	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0		2
7.	Gujarat	1165	1116	1058	25	1033	27	1309	1163	1215	35	1180	65	1307	1219	1043	41		68
8.	Harvana	195	160	147	12	135	15	217	183	150	20	130	15	268	203	123	21		47
9.	Himachal Pradesh	107	58	75	5	70	19	89	42	40	2	38	31	55	50	50	5		15
10.	J & K	5	5	3	1	2	2	4	6	6	1	5	0	1	1	7	0		0
11.	Jharkhand	76	66	46	14	32	64	126	66	46	14	32	105	277	223	124	24		62
12.	Karnataka	1844	1473	1396	30	1366	338	1643	1267	1391	35	1356	367	1780	1285	1359	55		512
13.	Kerala	439	257	294	27	267	385	438	195	296	13	283	354	345	245	409	57		328
14.	Madhya Pradesh	5507	5237	3554	889	2665	338	4699	4541	4141	1084	3057	334	4356	4222	4334	1392		230
15.	Maharashtra	697	631	759	30	729	104	715	556	1096	48	1048	196	865	723	594	35		248
16.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0

17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	27	10	2	2	0	13	0	5	21	21	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
20.	Orissa	1157	994	743	111	632	467	1398	1163	952	133	819	542	1439	1079	1098	122	718
21.	Punjab	127	76	61	11	50	58	134	70	74	17	57	73	140	64	42	5	107
22.	Rajasthan	4329	2445	2637	980	1657	399	4360	2728	2227	825	1402	357	3795	2660	2198	904	248
23.	Sikkim	7	7	3	2	1	0	16	5	2	0	2	10	7	9	6	3	3
24.	Tamil Nadu	1495	1140	1424	403	1021	571	1156	803	1546	539	1007	192	1206	812	1317	332	236
25.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	38	29	0	0	7
26.	Uttar Pradesh	2821	2453	5552	2675	2877	373	3785	3077	5088	2430	2658	566	4397	3739	5172	2553	643
27.	Uttaranchal	129	84	84	40	44	21	137	73	106	47	59	33	99	82	49	23	9
28.	West Bengal	5	6	3	2	1	0	14	9	12	0	12	6	12	4	2	1	14
	TOTAL STATE:	26216	20169	20790	5937	14853	6352	26880	19706	21973	5956	16017	7927	26088	20901	20619	6142	1	809
29.	A & N Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	D & N Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
32.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	1
33.	Delhi UT	13	5	7	0	7	19	4	3	16	4	12	18	21	5	10	2	30
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	22	7	6	0	6	14	23	17	11	1	10	7	14	7	11	1	5
	TOTAL UT:	36	16	13	0	13	33	27	20	29	6	23	25	39	13	21	3	38
	ALL INDIA TOTAL:	26252	20186	20803	5937	14866	1385	23887	19126	22002	5962	16080	7852	26127	20854	20640	6145	1	130

Source : Crime in India

Statement-II

Cases registered(CR), cases chargesheeted(CS), trial cimplited, cases convicted(CV), cases acquitted(AQ) and cases pending at year end(CP) for crimes against STs during 2003-05

SL	State/UT	2003						2004						200					
No.		CR	CS	TC	cv	AQ	CP	CR	CS	TC	CV	AQ	CP	CR	CS	TC	C	AQ	CP
1.	Andhra Pradesh	571	370	358	77	281	239	566	275	251	46	205	368	515	4329	322	40	282	307
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	66	40	0	0	0	11	75	57	1	0	1	17	54	37	9	7	2	6
3.	Assam	20	11	9	4	5	21	12	12	9	4	5	16	216	105	51	17	44	69
4.	Bihar	52	32	18	4	14	48	45	16	12	2	10	76	82	20	9	2	7	132
5.	Chhattisga	774	722	403	166	237	124	676	628	520	183	337	88	497	470	371	14	224	84
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
7.	Gujarat	241	219	228	12	216	10	241	185	364	13	351	3	237	207	190	2	188	7
8.	Haryana	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9.	Him achal	12	4	2	0	2	3	11	8	4	0	4	0	10	5	7	0	7	5
10.	J & K	1	1	3	0	3	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
11.	Jharkhand	108	82	39	11	28	119	123	81	39	11	28	151	483	227	118	27	91	291
12.	Karnataka	167	159	236	8	228	38	173	138	142	2	140	45	161	129	226	9	217	42
13.	Kerala	65	47	37	1	36	78	82	54	47	1	46	86	82	82	176	14	162	64
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1779	1675	928	228	700	209	1667	1668	1148	340	808	158	1615	1526	1640	485	1155	102
15.	Maharashtra	217	201	183	2	181	44	231	207	290	17	273	50	224	203	207	7	200	56
16.	Manipur	4	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2

17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	263	159	182	180	2	169	0	126	682	655	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Orissa	484	449	232	39	193	121	519	399	342	57	285	180	602	418	310	39	271	269
21.	Punjab	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Rajasthan	912	512	629	207	422	72	1031	532	610	204	406	92	863	548	644	237	407	57
23.	Sikkim	6	6	5	2	3	0	32	8	5	0	5	22	22	22	14	4	10	9
24.	Tamil Nadu	67	45	7	4	3	10	27	15	27	9	18	5	13	9	13	0	13	6
25.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	7	0	0	0	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	47	31	156	77	79	2	5	4	42	23	19	3	6	7	28	20	8	0
27.	Uttaranchal	5	4	6	4	2	1	3	2	7	6	1	1	1	1	11	8	3	1
28.	West Bengal	3	6	3	1	2	1	9	3	4	1	3	4	12	2	2	1	1	14
	TOTAL STATE:	5864	4776	3667	1027	2640	1321	5529	4419	4549	1577	2972	1368	5708	4454	4359	1066	3283	1547
29.	A & N Islands	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	. 0
31.	D & N Haveli	23	15	0	0	0	7	4	9	2	1	1	1	2	1	4	0	4	2
32.	Daman & Diu	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
33.	Delhi UT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL UT:	25	17	0	0	0	8	6	14	2	1	1	1	5	6	5	0	5	2
	ALL INDIA TOTAL:	5889	4793	3667	1027	2640	1329	5335	4433	4551	1578	2973	1369	5713	4480	4384	1056	3298	1545

SOURCE : Crime in India

Financial assistance to Kerala for flood relief

1140. SHRI THENNALA G.BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request from the State of Kerala regarding financial assistance for recent flood and other natural calamities;

(b) if so, the details of the request; and

(c) what action has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, The Government of Kerala has submitted a memorandum seeking financial assistance of Rs. 562.58 crore from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) for management of heavy rains/floods of 2007.

On receipt of the Memorandum from the State Government, an Inter-Ministerial Central Team was constituted, which visited the State on 3-7th August, 2007, for an on the post assessment of damage and requirements of funds. The report of the Central Team is being finalized, which is processed in accordance with the laid down procedure for release of funds to the State Government from NCCF. In the meanwhile responding to the request of the State Government, the Government of India released an amount of Rs. 50.00 crore as an 'on account' basis from NCCF.

National calamity relief fund

1141. SHRI THENNALA G BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the State-wise details of total amount sanctioned from the National Calamity Relief Fund during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): A Statement showing the State-wise details of funds released to the States from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) during the years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08, is given in the Statement.

Statement

State-wise details of funds released from NCCF during the years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State	Released from NCCF		
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (till date)
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	100.00	203.06	17.80
2	Arunachal Pradesh	68.44	44.38	0.00
3	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
4	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Gujarat	304.31	545.69	0.00
8	Haryana	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Himachal Pradesh	112.97	25.14	0.00
10	Jammu and Kashmir	309.77	0.00	13.51
11	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	Karnataka	358.85	384.97	0.00
13	Kerala	17.94	0.00	50.00
14	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	30.85	0.00
15	Maharashtra	657.25	589.90	168.92
16	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00
17	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00
18	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00
19	Nagaland	. 0.00	0.81	0.00
20	Orissa	0.00	25.00	0.00
21	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00
22	Rajasthan	0.00	100.00	0.00
23	Sikkim	0.00	5.20	0.00
24	Tamil Nadu	1131.91	0.00	0.00
25	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00
26	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00
27	Uttarakhand	0.00	7.06	0.00
28	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	0.00
	TOTAL:	3061.44	1962.06	250.23

Clashes in prisons

1142. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken cognizance of recent clashes between security forces and inmates in the prisons in different parts of the country;

(b) whether Government have taken note or reports of crime networks being run by jail inmates;

(c) whether Government have ascertained the role of jail authorities in this regard;

(d) whether it is a fact that as per the allocation of business the mandate of the Ministry also includes prison reforms; and

(e) if so, whether Government have taken any step in addition to usual communication with the respective State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) to (c) "Prisons" is a state subject under List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution and Prison Administration and Management is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Governments.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) With a view to supplementing the efforts of the State Government, the following reform measures have been taken by the Central Government to improve conditions in jails and also reduce overcrowding:

(1) A new section *viz.* 436A of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 has been inserted in the Code to provide that where an undertrial prisoner other than the one accused of an offence for which death has been prescribed as one of the punishments, has been under detention for a period extending to one-half of the maximum period of imprisonment, provided for the alleged offence, he should be released on his personal bond, with or without sureties. It also provides that in no case will an undertrial prisoner be detained beyond the maximum period of imprisonment for which he can be convicted for the alleged offence.

Section 436(1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 has also been amended to make a mandatory provision that if the arrested person is accused for a bailable offence and he is an indigent and cannot furnish surety, the Court shall release him on his execution of a bond without sureties.

(2) *Plea bargaining:*

In 2006, the Government of India has introduced the system of plea bargaining primarily to reduce pendency of cases in trial courts and overcrowding in prisons. Under plea bargaining, an accused will be entitled to a reduced sentence if he admits to the crime and agrees to compensate the victim. This will also require the consent of the victim, judge and prosecutor. The accused will have to file an application before the judge for plea bargaining.

(3) *Fast Track Courts:*

For disposal of long pending sessions and other cases, the Government of India has set up 1562 Fast Track Courts which have disposed off 10.4 lakh cases out of 18.2 lakh cases referred to these courts.

(4) *Model Prison Manual:*

The Government of India prepared a Model Prison Manual which was circulated to all the State Governments/Union Territories in December, 2003 for their guidance. The Manual aims at bringing in basic uniformity in laws, rules

and regulations governing the administration of prisons and the management of prisoners all over the country. It also prescribes segregation of various categories of prisoners and spells out the minimum standards required for the care, protection, treatment, education, training and rehabilitation of incarcerated offenders. It also prescribes security measures in jails.

Proliferation of small arms in the country

1143. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken cognizance of the proliferation of small arms in the country;

(b) the State-wise details of the new firearm licenses issued during last three years alongwith details of the pending applications for licenses;

(c) which are the States that have shown higher rate of growth in this regard;

(d) whether Government have assessed the reason for increase in the demands for firearms license;

(e) what steps are being taken to stop the proliferation of unlicensed firearms; and

(f) whether Government propose to strengthen the guidelines to the relevant licence issuing authorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) A strict legal and administrative regime is in place to control proliferation of small arms.

(b) to (d) The Central Government issues new firearm licences for Prohibited Bore weapons, while licences for Non-Prohibited Bore weapons are issued by the respective State/UT Governments. Details of new firearm licences for the Prohibited Bore weapons issued during the last three years, State-wise, are as under:-

2004 — 14 (Andhra Pradesh-2, Delhi-3, Haryana-l, Jharkhand-1, Kerala-1, Manipur-3, Punjab-2, UP-I)

2005 — 18 (Delhi-12, Haryana-1, Manipur-1, MP-1, Punjab-1, UP-2)

2006 — 4 (Delhi-2, J&K-l, Maharashtra-1)

No application for prohibited bore licences is pending at present.

(e) The Central Government has initiated several measures to check proliferation of illicit arms in the country. The State and UT Governments have been directed to identify the areas where illegal arms and ammunition have been rampant, and to make sustained and continued efforts to check them. Regular meetings are organized with representatives from the State Police for better coordination in this regard. The Central Government has also initiated several steps such as fencing along the international borders, deployment of Security forces along the borders etc. to check the in flow of arms from across the borders.

(0 At present, there is no such proposal with the Government.

Non-utilization of funds for modernization of para-military forces

1144. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:' Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of Rs. 3740 crore allotted for modernization of six para-military forces, half the amount could be spent during 2002-07, thereby adversely affecting security of the nation;

(b) if so, whether the combat capability of our para-military forces, who are mostly deployed against terrorists in difficult terrain, has been impeded; and

(c) what immediate steps are being adopted so that security of our nation and safety of our fighting soldiers is not compromised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) While about 57% of the amount of Rs. 3740.71 crores allocated for Modernisation of six para military forces during the period 2002 to 2007 could be incurred, but with the amounts already spent for modernization, Central Para-Military Forces (CPMFs) have been able to procure substantial quantity of sophisticated weaponry, communication/surveillance equipment and bullet proof vehicles which are being used extensively by the CPMFs during various operations with good effect.

It has been a constant endeavor on the part of the Government to equip the forces with modern weaponry/equipments etc. In order to ensure speedy/full utilization of earmarked funds, the Government has taken various steps to expedite procurement process such as setting up of expert groups for formulation of qualitative requirements, initiating process for procuring items not available on DGS&D rate contracts through open tender, etc.

Prosecution of police personnel for custodial deaths

1145. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of police personnel undergoing jail sentence for being responsible for custodial deaths and/or for committing other criminal offences while on duty, State-wise;

(b) the number of such cases pending prosecutions, State-wise; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) to (c) As ner statistics compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau, a statement indicating the number of police personnel convicted for custodial deaths and other criminal offences and the number of such cases pending prosecution State-wise during the years 2004 and 2005 is given in the Statements.

Statement

Number of police personnel convicted for custodial deaths and other criminal offences and the number of such cases pending prosecution State-wise during the years 2004 and 2005

Sl. No.	Name of State	Number of police personnel convicted for custodial death & other criminal offences		Number of police personnel charge sheeted for custodial death & other	
		2004	2005	2004	2005
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-		3	-
2.	Bihar	-		3 '	-
3.	Chhattisgarh	4		2	-
4.	Gujarat	-		6	10
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	-		1	-
6.	Karnataka	-		-	4
7.	Maharashtra	-		13	-
8.	Orissa	-		2	-
9.	Punjab	-		4	-
10.	Rajasthan	-		-	1
11.	Tamil Nadu	-		1	2
12.	Uttar Pradesh		3	2	1
13.	West Bengal	-		-	7
	TOTAL:	4	3	37	25

NOTE: The information in respect of other State Govemments/UTs is Nil.

Outsourcing police jobs

1146. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to outsource police jobs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) 'Police' is a State subject. There is no such proposal with the Central Government.

Kashmiri Pandits' desire to live in the valley

†1147. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kashmiri Pandits want to live in the valley itself instead of new township of Jammu; and

(b) if so, whether Government will suggest and direct State Government to make the same arrangements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The policy of the Government is that the Kashmiri Pandits should return back once the conditions are conducive for their safe and dignified return. Till such time this matures, Government is eager to make their stay comfortable at Jammu. Therefore, under the Prime Minister's Reconstruction Plan, 5242 two-roomed tenements are being constructed out of which 1024 flats are being constructed at Muthi, Purkhoo and Nagrota which are at various stages of completion. A new township has been planned at Jagti where remaining 4218 flats are being constructed with facilities like schools, health care, transport, etc. to accommodate all the families presently living in the camps and in Government/ semi-Government accommodation.

For facilitating the return of migrants who are willing to return to the valley, the Central Government approved the construction of 200 flats at Sheikhpora in Budgam District. The construction is nearing completion. The shrines in Mattan and Kheer Bhavani have been developed into two model clusters containing temporary shelters for Kashmiri migrants, where the Kashmiri migrants displaced from these places could be settled temporarily, till such time they can repair their existing residential houses. The State Government have constructed 18 flats at Mattan and 100 one-room tenements at Kheer Bhavani.

Parameters for transfers and postings of IPS officers

1148. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the parameters followed in general in the matter of transfers and postings of senior IPS officers;

(b) among competency, suitability and acceptability, which of it would weigh more and preferable; and

(c) whether there is lot of heart burning and disappointment among senior IPS officers that postings are given indiscriminately without following norms or principles and public interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) IPS officers are appointed to various

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

posts in the Government of India in accordance with the norms, taking into account the experience, service records and suitability for the post. This may at times lead to disappointment among some officers who are not able to make it to a post. The tenures of the officers so appointed are regulated by the IPS Deputation Tenure Policy formulated by the Government. The posting and transfer of IPS officers borne on various State/Union Territory Cadres are done by the respective State/UT Government.

Lack of co-ordination between IB and other police segments

1149. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many times, major lapses and disasters may occur due to non-coordination or lack of adequate coordination between IB on the one side and other Police segments on the other like Mumbai blast shows lack of co-ordination between IB and Mumbai Police;

(b) whether IB also lacks co-ordination with other Intelligence Wings of various other departments like Army, Air Force, Navy, BSF and CRPF; and

(c) the latest information about Chhota Rajan and his linkage with Dawood and the latest efforts made in getting Dawood to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) No Sir. There exist coordination mechanisms in IB and at the State level to facilitate regular coordination between IB and other Central and State security and intelligence agencies.

(c) Available inputs suggest that at present Chhota Rajan does not have linkages with Dawood Ibrahim. All possible efforts are being made to bring Dawood Ibrahim to India through various channels including INTERPOL.

Organizations posing threat to internal security

†1150. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified those organizations in the country which are responsible for posing threat to the internal security of the country;

(b) if **so,** what are the names of such organizations alongwith the State-wise details of those organizations which are active in various States of the country;

(c) whether Government have got the information about the numbers of active members of these organizations;

(d) if so, the details of active members of each of the organization; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) the names of the countries from where these organizations get the various types of assistance or aid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) A list of organizations banned under. the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 as amended in 2004, as 'terrorist organizations' is given in Statement *(See* below). These organizations are active in J&K, North Eastern States and naxal affected areas. Involvement of some of these outfits in some other parts of the country has been noticed.

(c) and (d) It is not in public interest to disclose details of members of these outfits.

(e) Many of these terrorist organizations are operating mainly from the territory of Pakistan and also using the territory and some elements in Bangladesh and Nepal for terrorist activities.

Statement

List of organizations banned under the unlawful activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 as amended in 2004, as 'terrorist organizations'

1. Babbar Khalsa International
2. Khalistan Commando Force
3. Khalistan Zindabad Force
4. International Sikh Youth Federation
5. Lashkar-e-Taiba/Pasban-e-Ahle Hadis
6. Jaish-e-Mohmmed/Tahrik-e-Furqan
7. Harkat-Ul-Mujahideen/Harkat-Ul-Ansar/Harkat-Ul Jehad-E-Eslami
8. Hizb-Ulmujahideen/Hizb-Ul-Mujahudeen Pir Panjal Regiment
9. Al-Umar-Mujahideen
10. Jammu and Kashmir Islamic Front
11. United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA)
12. National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB)
13. Peoples's Liberation Army (PLA)
14. United National Liberation Front (UNLF)
15. Peoples Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK)
16. Kanleipak Communist Party (KCP)
17. Kanglei Yaol Kanba Lup (KYKL)
18. Manipur Peoples Liberation Front (MPLF)
19. All Tripura Tiger Force
20. National Liberation Front of Tripura

21. Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)

22. Students Islamic Movement of India

23. Deendar Anjuman

24. Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) People's War, all its Formations and Front Organisations

25. Maoist Communist Centre (MCC), All its Formations and Front Organizations

26. Al Badr

27. Jamiat-Ul-Mujahideen

28. Al-Quaida

29. Dukhtaran-e-Millat (DEM)

30. Tamil Nadu Liberation Army (TNLA)

31. Tamil National Retrieval Troops (TNRT)

32. Akhil Bharat Nepali Ekta Samaj (ABNES)

Terrorists getting explosives from coal mines

†1151. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that reports of getting explosives from coal mines by terrorists have came into light;

(b) if so, the detailed information in this regard;

(c) whether Government have cautioned in this regard, to coal mines and the suppliers of explosives; and

(d) if so, the facts in this regard and whether Government have made arrangements also for special safety and security of coal mines and explosives suppliers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) No such reports have come to the notice of the Government.

(c) and (d) Under the Explosives Rules, 1983, it is mandatory for a licensee to provide round the clock safe custody of the magazines or store houses by deploying guards at his own expenses which shall be of such strength as the District Authority may consider it to be sufficient. In addition, Licensing Authority, District Authority and Police Officials authorized under rule 179 also carry out periodic inspections and checks in the licensed premises. Further, users of explosives as well as the manufacturers of explosives are asked from time to time to ensure effective monitoring mechanisms to prevent any pilferage of explosives.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Death of inmates in Central jails

†1152. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards deaths of inmates in various Central jails of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have ascertained reasons behind such deaths;

(c) if so, whether National Human Rights Commission has submitted any report in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) to (b) "Prisons" is a state subject under List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution and Prison Administration is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Governments.

(c) and (d) As per the guidelines issued by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in 1993, all the State Governments/Union Territories are under obligation to report every death whether in police custody or in judicial custody within 24 hours of its occurrence irrespective of the cause of death of the deceased. The Commission calls for reports to find out if there is any omission or commission on the part of a public servant, which may have resulted in violation of human rights of the deceased. During the last three years 393 deaths in police custody and 4425 deaths in judicial custody were reported to NHRC by the State Governments/Union Territories. However, a large percentage of intimations received relate to natural deaths. During the period from 1.4.2004 to 31.3.2007, the Commission has recommended interim relief/disciplinary action in 24 proven cases of custodial violence in police custody and 23 cases in judicial custody.

Naxalism and militancy in NE States

†1153. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of terrorism, naxalism and militancy are still going on in North-Eastern States;

(b) whether Government have succeeded in checking the rise in the incidents of terrorism in various States during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) North Eastern States continue to suffer from militancy but no naxal violence has come to notice.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) to (d) The number of violent incidents in 2006 was at the same level as that of 2005. However, during the current year till 31st July, 2007 compared to relevant period in 2006, there has been some increase in violence. This is primarily due to the step-up in violent activities by ULFA in Assam and Meitie outfits in Manipur.

Documentary film on the occasion of 150th Anniversary of India's struggle for independence

†1154. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make some special documentary film on the occasion of 150th anniversary of struggle for independence;

(b) if **so,** the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the progress made so far to make this documentary film?

The MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes Sir, the Government proposes to make some documentary films on the occasion of 150th anniversary of First War of Independence, 1857. Some documentary films have been made to commemorate India's struggle for independence.

(b) and (c) Details are given in the Statement.

Statement

Film on 150th Anniversary of first war of Independence, 1857

1. On the occasion of anniversary of Quit India Movement, Films Division produced a film on Quit India movement for Doordarshan which was telecast on 8.8.2007.

2 On occasion of Independence Day, Films Division has produced a film "Freedom And Progress" from the material of its archive showing all the Prime Ministers since India's independence explaining their policies and hoisting the flag at Red Fort. The film was telecast on Doordarshan on 15th August, 2007.

3. Film on Gandhiji in South Africa has been completed.

4. Films Division has covered the function on commemorating 150th anniversary of the First War of Independence in New Delhi on 10th May, 2007 at Meerut, Red Fort, Vijay Chowk, etc. and a documentary of 20 mins. duration is being produced for theatrical release. The film is presently at editing stage.

5. Film on Gandhiji and Non-Violence, Gandhiji's influence on World Community etc. for telecast on Doordarshan. The film will also be released in the theatrical circuit of Films Division. The film is at editing stage.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

6. Number of films on Gandhij's various policies, activities, philosophy and his role in freedom movement will be provided by Films Division for telecast on Doordarshan.

7. Films Division will produce a documentary based on the Satyagraha centenary celebrations, Gandhiji's last journey and nations' commitment to Gandhiji's philosophy etc. for telecast on Doordarshan. The film is at scripting stage.

8. A comprehensive film or quickies on various aspects of Gandhiji's life including Communal Harmony, Satyagraha Ahimsa, Gandhij's speech on peace and Gandhiji's popular songs. The film is at scripting stage.

9. A film on trial of INA by Panditji as a lawyer is also being produced. The film is at scripting stage.

Films Division will also undertake the production of the following films:

A. Maha Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi - The film is based on the life of Maharani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi who fought in the first war of Independence against the British in 1857.

B. Train Theatre Exclusively on Freedom Struggle Movement & Fighters of India - Film on Train Theatre exclusively on Freedom Struggle Movement and Fighters of India.

It is further stated that Films Division has produced number of films on Freedom Movement/Satyagraha as also on national leaders and freedom fighters.

Following 18 biographical film on freedom fighters have been proposed for production for commemorating the 150th anniversary of the First War of Independence, 1857:

1. Ashfaqulla Khan
2 Acharya Narendra Deo
3. Aruna Asaf Ali
4. Bishnu Ram Medhi
5. Chandra Singh Garhwali
6. Khuddiram Bose
7. K Keiappan
8. Kunwar Singh
9. Madanlal Dhingra
10. Ramprasad Bismil
11. Udham Singh
12. Vijay Singh Pathik

13. Shahmaljat

14. Jhalkari Bai

15. Begum Hazrat Mahal

16. Jatin Das

17. Bagha Jatin of Bengal

18. Mrs. Matangini Hazra

Radio coverage in border areas

†1155. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps being taken to strengthen the radio coverage in border areas of the country;

(b) whether new radio stations proposed for Uttarakhand in the Tenth Plan period have started functioning; and

(c) if not, the broadcasting stations which have been affected due to delay and by when these stations would start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir. For strengthening the radio coverage in border areas, following Plans have been implemented:

1. J and K Special Plan Phase-I has been completed. Under this plan 9 projects have been commissioned and 3 are technically ready.

2. As part of North East Plan Phase-I, two FM transmitters at Itanagar and Kohima are ready.

3. In May, 2006, following transmitters have been approved under North East Special Plan Phase-II:

   (0 1 kW FM transmitter at 19 new places.

   (ii) 5 kW FM transmitter at Silchar.

   (iii) 10 kW FM transmitter at Gangtok.

   (iv) Replacement of 1000 kW MW transmitter at Chinsurah (W.B.) by same power transmitter.

   (v) 100 Nos. of 100 Watt FM transmitters for uncovered areas.

Further, 1000 kW MW transmitter at Rajkot is being replaced by a new transmitter of same power.

(b) and (c) The details are given in the Statement.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

Status of Tenth Plan Projects for Uttarakhand

SI. No.	Name of the place (S)	Details of Transmitter	Status
1.	Kathikhan. Nainital Ranikhet Tanakpur Bhatwari Rajgarhi, Pratap Nagar, Bacher, Ukhimath and Gopeshwar (Chamoli)	Low Power 100 Watt FM Transmitters	Installed but could not be commissioned as frequency clearance for their operation is awaited from Wireless Planning and Coordination (WPC) wing of Department of Telecommunication.
2.	Dehradun	Studios and 10 kW FM Transmitter	After long persuasion with State Government for cost of site, AIR could acquire site in December, 2005. Estimates for boundary wall and building have been sanctioned. 10 kW FM transmitter will be installed at Mussourie. Tenders for 10 kW PM Transmitter have been invited.
3.	Haldwani *	10 kW FM Transmitter	Payment for site has been made. But State Government is yet to hand over the site.
4.	Dharchula	1 kW MW Transmitter	A site belonging to Police Department was identified. But it could not materialize. So far no suitable site could be identified.
5.	Rudraprayag	1 kW FM Transmitter	Site identified. Demand note is yet to be received.
6.	Champawat	1 kW FM Transmitter	Demand note for site has been received.
7.	Bageshwar	5 kW FM Transmitter	Site taken over, estimate for permanent boundary wall sanctioned.
8.	Gairsen	1 kW FM Transmitter	Site taken over, estimate for boundary wall sanctioned.
9.	New Tehri	1 kW FM Transmitter	Site acquired. Preliminary Estimate for boundary wall under process.

NOTE: Implementation of the above schemes will depend upon availability of funds and sanction of Operation and Maintenance staff.

Comprehensive TV code for content regulation

1156. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian television is set to get a comprehensive code for content regulation and a hew content code has been prepared by Government about broadcasters what they can air at what time and what they can't;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has already discussed the code with television industry;

(c) whether the code marks the first major step in introducing systems in an industry which frequently debates moral policing by Government but triggers equally frequent discussions on inappropriate or offensive content;

(d) if so, what was the outcome of the discussion held; and

(e) by when this code is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (e) Provisions for regulating content of Indian TV already exist under Rules 6 and 7 of the Cable TV Rules, 1994 and are implemented in cases of complaints. To make the code more comprehensive and specific, a Committee has been constituted for reviewing Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder and the guidelines for certification of films prescribed under the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and for drafting a new content code. A draft of the proposed Code has also been posted on the website of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting *www.mib.nic.in.* The Committee comprises the representatives of broadcasting organisations apart from civil society and consumer groups and the Code has been discussed with them. The responses have been both for and against the Code. The Committee has had six meetings so far. The next meeting has not been scheduled.

Guidelines for news channels

1157. SHRI P.R. RANJAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is considering separate list of guidelines for news channels working in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) A Committee has been constituted for reviewing Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder and the guidelines for certification of films prescribed under the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and drafting a new content code. A draft of the proposed Code, including a proposed chapter on guidelines for news channels, has also been posted on the website of the Ministry

of Information and Broadcasting *www.mib.nic.in.* The Committee has had six meetings so far. The next meeting has not been scheduled.

(b) Does not arise.

Telecast of advertisements on pay channels

1158. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is provision to show advertisements between the programmes on pay channels being telecast on cable T.V.;

(b) if so, the time period and policy rules for showmg advertisements between the programmes on pay channels as pay channel companies are paid monthly subscription per channel by cable operators;

(c) whether Government would consider to impose ban on showing advertisements between the programmes on pay channels; and

(d) if so, by when, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rule 7(11) of the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994 as amended has provided that no programme shall carry advertisements exceeding twelve minutes per hour, which may include upto ten minutes per hour of commercial advertisements, and upto two minutes per hour of a channel's self promotional programmes.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration of Government.

(d) Ban on advertisements on pay channels may push up subscription rates of such channels and may not be in the interest of viewers.

Deplorable condition of AIR stations

1159. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that AIR stations are in a deplorable condition with some lying defunct for more than 3 months in Assam and North East; and

(b) whether any initiative has been taken to enhance the Radio Networks for commercialization taking cue from other States and cities?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir. All the stations in North East including Assam are working satisfactorily.

(b) Prasar Bharati has set-up an exclusive Marketing Division at Guwahati in 2006 which is working as a Single Window for catering to the needs of Advertisers/Clients of Assam and the entire North-Eastern Region. This division accepts bookings for and on behalf of all the AIR stations of Assam and North-Eastern Region. With the

help of the Marketing Division at Guwahati, the AIR stations in Assam and North-Eastern Region have been able to increase their commercial revenue.

Besides, All India Radio has already allowed concession upto 50% on commercial rates to NGOs/Voluntary Organisations for promoting Public Service Broadcasting on various Radio Stations of Assam and the North-Eastern Region *viz.* Halflong, Jorhat, Diphu, Kokrajhar, Belonia, Gangtok, Jowai, Kailashahar, Mokokchung, Kohima, Tezu, Tura etc. in order to make the stations of this region commercially viable to some extent.

Study on ITIs conducted by FICCI

1160. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken cognizance of the study on ITIs conducted by FICCI;

(b) if so, what are the main conclusions of the study;

(c) whether the study also commented upon the quality of courses and training offered by the ITIs;

(d) whether the study offered solutions to improve the quality of training, if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have agreed with such solutions; and

(f) if so, what steps are being taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) to (f) Main conclusions of the study carried out by FICCI show that while situation with regard to physical infrastructure and availability of power supply remains comfortable, factors like non-availability of computerized numerically controlled machines, inadequate supplies of raw material and lack of focus on staff training and development are key impediments in the strengthening of these institutions.

Some of the suggestions given by FICCI are introduce courses which have larger employment potential, fill up vacancies of instructors, have effective and vigilant monitoring system, strengthen industry- institute linkage, provide functional autonomy to the institute, update syllabi of trades, train instructors and staff of institutes, introduce training in soft skills and strengthen testing and certification norms to global standards etc.

Government have taken following initiatives in this regard:

(i) In the last ten years, course curricula of 57 trades have been revised, 50 new trades introduced in consultation with Industry and 11 trades for which demand did not exist have been dropped.

(ii) The deficiencies pointed out by FICCI study are being addressed through upgradation of Government ITIs under World Bank assisted Vocational Training Improvement Project and scheme of up gradation of 1396 Government ITIs through Public Private Partnership.

Increasing child labourers in the era of liberalisation

†1161. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of child labourers at present in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the era of liberalization also, the number of child labourers has increased by 10 per cent;

(c) whether it is also a fact that most of the child labourers rescued from bonded labour meet the same fate again in the absence of guarantee for rehabilitation from the State Government; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to eradicate this problem of child labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) As per the latest Census 2001, the number of child labour in the country is 1.26 crore.

(b) As per the figures of Census 2001, there was an increase of about 10% in the number of child labourers in the country as compared to 1991 Census.

(c) Under the Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour grants are released to the State Governments for rehabilitation of identified/ rdeased bonded labours on 50:50 sharing basis including bonded child labour. State Governments are advised from time to time for follow up of the cases, rehabilitated by them, so that no occasion of relapse is reported.

(d) Government is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme in 250 districts of 20 States of the country for the rehabilitation of children withdrawn from hazardous occupations. Under the scheme, these children are put into special schools where they are provided with accelerated bridging education, vocational training, mid-day meal, stipend and health care facilities etc.

Denial of social security to people in unorganized sector

1162. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many industries in the unorganized sector refuse to issue appointment letter to its employees;

(b) if so, whether this is causing denial of EPF and ESI benefits to large sections of working people;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken/propose to take to protect the workers from exploitation by the employers in this sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) It is an established practice in organized sector to issue appointment letters to workman. But many establishments in unorganized sector are not following this established practice. However, under Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act it is the statutory responsibility of the employers to issue employment cards to Contract Labours. Whenever violations are detected, efforts are made to rectify the irregularities failing which prosecution cases are launched against defaulting employers.

Industrial park scheme

1163. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: SHRI
KESHUBHAI S. PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the Industrial Park Scheme being operated by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion;

(b) whether the Government of Gujarat has sent the revised proposal to Government of India on the Industrial Park Ordinance in 2006 for obtaining the approval; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Industrial Park Scheme aims at encouraging private investment in development of eligible projects in which high quality infrastructure is made available in a centralized manner, so that the units operating from such projects can have the benefit of lower transaction cost and shorter start up time. Under this Scheme, tax exemption under Section 80 IA of Income Tax Act, 1961, is available to undertakings accorded approval under the Scheme, for any ten consecutive years out of fifteen years beginning from the year in which the undertaking commences operation.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The revised proposal as suggested by the Ministry of Labour and Employment has not been received from the Government of Gujarat on the Industrial Park Ordinance.

Amendment in Central Labour Laws for SEZ

†1164. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is **a** fact that a proposal has been sent by the Madhya Pradesh Government to the Central Government to amend Central Labour Laws for Special Economic Zone (SEZ) of Indore, Madhya Pradesh;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.